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SISTERHOOD MEETING
CHANUKAH PRICE IS RIGHT!
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH 8:15PM
SISTERHOOD NEWS BEGINS ON PAGE 17

HAMAKOM YINACHEM

**Howard Kaufman, on the passing of his sister, Ellen Carrol
Michael Zaglin, on the passing of his father, Morris Zaglin
Jeffrey Haber, on the passing of his mother, Gloria Krasner
Mali Chad, on the passing of her father, Murray Eisenman**

MAZEL TOV

**Mina & Robert Friedmann, upon the birth of their granddaughter, Emma May,
daughter of Rachel & Jared Friedmann
Karin & Steven Factor, upon the birth of their grandson, Zayne Noah,
son of Amber & Michael Factor
Mathilde & Cliff Broder, upon the birth of their grandson, Leo James,
son of Samantha & Brandon Rigoli
Bunny & Steven Finkelstein, upon the birth of their granddaughter,
Samantha Michelle, daughter of Debra & Rob Levy
Margie & Marc Richter, upon the engagement of their son Keith to Prianka Basur**

KEEP US INFORMED!! Got good news? Engagements, marriages, births? Send your information by mail, fax (516-938-2737) or email (pjcli@optonline.net) so that we may share your *simchas* with the congregation.

PLEASE LET OUR CLERGY KNOW!

Current laws prevent hospitals from releasing names of patients. Please call the Temple Office when you, a family member, or friend are in the hospital and would welcome a visit. Contact the Temple office at 516-938-8610 ext.0.

Plainview Jewish Center - 516-938-8610

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* In Memoriam

DEADLINE - FOR- ISSUE DATE
DEC. 1st

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Mon. thru Fri..... 6:30AM

Mon. thru Thurs.....8:00PM

Sun. and Holidays..... 9:00AM

Sun. and Holidays..... 8:00PM

Friday Evening Services -

Check Calendar for Times

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.PLAINVIEWJEWISHCENTER.ORG

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Rabbi Steven Conn & Cantor Morris Wolk will officiate at services

The Officers and Board of Trustees Extend a Hearty Mazal Tov to the Families of the Following Simchas

Thursday, December 1st

Executive Board Meeting.....8:15PM

Friday, December 2nd

Erev Shabbat (one service only).....4:15PM

Saturday, December 3rd

Shacharit Service.....9:00AM

Bat Mitzvah of Shari Spiegler

Daughter of Elayne & Peter Spiegler

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM

Sunday, December 4th

Men's Club T/T.....9:00AM

Adult Bar Mitzvah Class.....9:00AM

Kadimah.....5:30PM

USY.....7:00PM

Monday, December 5th

J-FLEX Hebrew High School.....6:00-8:00PM

Religious School Committee.....8:15PM

Tuesday, December 6th

Sisterhood Meeting.....8:15PM

Wednesday, December 7th

Bible Study.....8:15PM

Thursday, December 8th

Board of Trustees Meeting.....8:15PM

Friday, December 9th

Early Service.....4:15PM

Family Friendly &

Musical Shabbat Service.....7:00PM

Saturday, December 10th

Shacharit Service.....9:00AM

Mincha /Maariv.....4:00PM

Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Graham

Son of Paula & Michael Graham

Sunday, December 11th

Men's Club T/T.....9:00AM

Adult Bar Mitzvah Class.....9:00AM

Kindergarten, Sunday School & Mechina

Workshop.....9:00AM

Kadima.....5:30PM

USY.....7:00PM

Monday, December 12th

AARP Defensive Driving.....6:30-9:30PM

Tuesday, December 13th

Men's Club Board Meeting.....8:15PM

Sisterhood Board Meeting.....8:15PM

Wednesday, December 14th

Lunch & Learn.....11:00AM

Ritual Meeting.....8:15PM

Thursday, December 15th

Express Innovations.....7:15-9:15PM

Friday, December 16th

Early Shabbat Service.....4:15PM

Tot Shabbat.....6:00PM

Bet Class Service.....7:00PM

Saturday, December 17th

Shacharit Service.....9:00AM

Shabbat B'yachad & Learning Service...10:30AM

Mincha/Maariv.....4:00PM

Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Kubrick

Daughter of Shari & David Kubrick

Sunday, December 18th

Men's Club T/T.....9:00AM

Adult Bar Mitzvah Class.....9:00AM

Religious School.....10:00-12:00PM

Men's Club Chanukah Party.....12:00PM

Tironim.....5:30PM

USY.....7:00PM

Monday, December 19th

J-FLEX Hebrew High School.....6:00-8:00PM

AARP Defensive Driving.....6:30-9:30PM

Tuesday, December 20th

EREV CHANUKAH - LIGHT FIRST CANDLE!

Wednesday, December 21st

Chanukah Menorah Lighting.....5:45PM

Bible Study.....8:15PM

Friday, December 23rd

Erev Shabbat (one service only).....4:15PM

Saturday, December 24th

Shacharit Service.....9:00AM

Mincha/Maariv.....4:15PM

Sunday, December 25th

Men's Club T/T.....9:00AM

Tuesday, December 27th

Men's Club Board Meeting.....8:15PM

Friday, December 30th

Erev Shabbat (one service only).....4:15PM

Saturday, December 31st

Shacharit Service.....9:00AM

Mincha/Maariv.....4:15PM

FROM THE RABBI by Rabbi Steven Conn



Some years, Chanukah comes so early that we find ourselves eating latkes alongside our leftover turkey. Other years, Chanukah comes so late that we can watch the candles drip on the same night we watch the ball drop in Times Square. But this year, Chanukah comes at exactly the right time: on the shortest day of the year.

Why is the shortest day of the year the perfect time to begin our Chanukah celebration? Because we celebrate Chanukah by bringing light into the darkness. And what better time to bring light into the darkness than on the shortest day of the year?

Of course, we did not invent the festival of lights. Pagan cultures observed festivals of light around the winter solstice long before the Maccabees. When the days grow short and the weather turns cold, we have an almost instinctual need to respond by creating light and warmth. This need persists even for those of us who have electric lights and central heating in our homes. Research shows that up to 20 percent of us suffer from some form of the “winter blues”.

Not surprisingly, Chanukah involves traditions designed to cheer us up, including lighting the menorah. But we see the Chanukah lights not only as a source of rejoicing, but also as a reminder of the many other ways we can bring light into the world. From the beginning, the menorah has symbolized our commitment to resist oppression and assert our right to freely practice our religion.

But, when the Romans ruled the land of Israel, the rabbis added another dimension as well. The rabbis of that time debated whether we should light the Chanukah candles in descending or ascending order. Originally, there were two different customs. They asked, “Should we start with eight candles on the first night and decrease the number by one each of the following nights, as was the practice of the House of Shammai? Or should we follow the House of Hillel and begin with one candle; adding another one every day?”

As we know, the view of the House of Hillel won out. We light one candle the first night, and add another candle every night after that. Why did this view prevail? The rabbis explain that “what it comes to holiness, we always ascend.” In other words, the menorah, which becomes brighter with each passing day, announces our desire to bring more and more holiness into the world.

Bringing holiness into the world begins with behaving in a God-like way. The Torah tells us “You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:2). The rabbis understand this verse to mean should “. . . follow the “attributes of God. As God clothes the naked, you, too, should clothe the naked. The Bible teaches us that the Holy One visited the sick; you too should visit the sick. The Holy One comforted those who mourn; you too, should comfort those who mourn. The Holy One buried the dead; you too should bury the dead.” (Midrash Sifre). To be holy, then, means to act like God, showing compassion for those in need and helping to make the world a better place. From this perspective, the menorah symbolizes our determination to bring light into the world through acts of caring and compassion.

Lately, our congregation has become a tremendous example of the spirit of Chanukah; bringing light into the world in a variety of ways, large and small. Most dramatically, we have just completed our first annual Bone Marrow Donor Drive. More than 150 people from our congregation and the nearby communities came to the Eichenbaum Ballroom on Sunday, November 13th to get their cheeks swabbed and enter the pool of potential bone marrow donors. Our Bone Marrow Donor Drive was inspired and supported by a member of our congregation who is battling bone marrow cancer. We hope and pray that our congregant will soon find a match. But our efforts reach far beyond our local community. Our donor information will be entered into an international database that matches donors and recipients around the world. On average, for each one hundred donors, one life is saved. Of

(*continued on page 5*)

From The Rabbi (continued from Page 4)

course, we hope that we will beat that average. Many thanks to Ed Fryman, Evy Rothman and all those who worked to help make our Bone Marrow Donor Drive such a success. We intend to continue our efforts to help identify more donors with at least one donor drive each year.

Our Bone Marrow Drive follows on the heels of a very successful food drive conducted during the fall holiday season. With the help of Hatzilu, our congregation collected a hundreds of bags for distribution to hungry people on Long Island. Again, thanks to Arlyne Skolnick and all those who helped make our food drive a success. Our Gutmanstein Religious School has also held a food drive in conjunction with Thanksgiving. And, participants in our Interfaith Thanksgiving Service donated food in a community effort through Long Island Harvest. Meanwhile, the Men's Club is holding a Coat Drive through December 5th. Thanks to Mike Levy for coordinating this project.

In addition to these seasonal projects, our Sisterhood and Men's Club both have ongoing project to benefit people in need. Sisterhood partners with M'yad L'yad to help disadvantaged families on Long Island. Men's Club collaborates with Hatzilu on fundraising throughout the year. Our USY program conducts a number of project for SATO—Social Action Tikkun Olam. Finally, since we re-introduced the concept of the "mitzvah project" to our B'nai Mitzvah and their families, we have seen a huge upswing in activity. Each year, our students invite us to help them to help others in a variety of ways. The Mitzvah Project table in the hall by the synagogue office often displays three or four different collection boxes where we can deposit materials to benefit causes ranging from endangered animals to children with food allergies. Some of our students give of their time more directly as well; working with the elderly, with young children or even helping to stock food pantry shelves. This year, our J-Flex high school students will also be receiving credit for hands-on projects as well.

I am incredibly proud of the way that our congregation has embraced the challenge of bringing more holiness into the world. We have always been a group filled with open hearts and generous spirits. But, lately, we have taken our desire to make the world a better place to a new, higher level. We have embraced new challenges. We have worked together to bring about amazing results. Our efforts have engaged our entire congregation; from youngest to oldest, from the most involved members to those who have been on the periphery. We have brought a tremendous amount of light into the world through our collective efforts. Our commitment to helping others has become an important part of our identity as a congregation.

As we light the Chanukah candles each night this year, let's take a moment to reflect on all the ways that we, as individuals and as a congregation, have brought more light into the world this year. And, at the same time, let's resolve to respond to the challenge of darkness with even more energy and determination in the year to come. We know that there will always be darkness out there, beyond the window that frames our menorah's light. But working together, we have shown that we can shine our light brightly, make a difference, and bring the spirit of Chanukah to a world sorely in need of illumination.

Text Study with Rabbi Conn
Most Shabbat Afternoons between
Mincha (Afternoon) and Ma'ariv (evening) services.

Begin the new week with a few minutes of study. This fall, we will focus on a question from the weekly Torah portion and the answer given by Rashi, the most famous of all commentators. Our discussions are always brief, and usually insightful. So join us for prayer, study and camaraderie as we explore the Torah together.

The Cantor's Note: Hanukah Miracles



Hanukah commemorates, in the popular imagination, the story of a miraculous jar of oil. Does it really? The Talmudic legend of this single jar of pure oil which burned for eight days is of a later date than the historical struggle of the Maccabees against the Greco-Syrians and the Jewish Hellenists.

We know from the second Book of the Maccabees that Hanukah was actually patterned after the eight day Sukkot festival. The day set for the rededication of the Temple, the 25th of Kislev, coincided with the third anniversary of its defilement. Our ancestors celebrated for eight days, like Sukkot, which had not been observed in its proper time. Nevertheless, on Hanukah, we add during the Amidah the prayer *Al Hanissim*, thanking God for miracles wrought for our people “on these days at this time” many centuries ago. What was the nature of these miracles and how are they to be reconciled with the actual historical narrative of Hanukah? To do so requires a reconsideration of what constitutes a miracle.

We believe that there is a greater and more constant miracle than the occasional intervention of God into human affairs. We acknowledge the miraculous aspects of God's creation and human existence in prayers three times a day. We offer thanks, “for our lives which our committed into Your hand, and for our souls which are in Your charge, and for Your miracles which are daily with us.”

But the *Al Hanissim* prayer for Hanukah speaks of “mighty deeds and saving acts” and the deliverance of “the strong into the hands of the weak.” Significantly, victory in this struggle between two unequal opponents is explicitly regarded as a miracle, though, unlike other biblical miracles, it lacked the element of Godly intervention through some supernatural occurrence. It was a military struggle with reverses and defeats as well as successes and ultimate victory, in which strategy and morale, conviction of right and justice, and religious passion carried the day against sheer weight of arms. It was through the force of human spirit and determination that a miraculous outcome was achieved. This is the miracle that produced the Maccabees and saved the Jewish people. This is the real miracle that we celebrate on Hanukah.

This year, though, our celebration is troubled by a growing existential threat to the State of Israel - Iran's nuclear ambitions. The United Nations has shown, beyond a doubt that Iranian denials of a military objective are not to be believed. However, when they brazenly threaten to obliterate the Jewish state and wipe it off the map, they must be taken at their word. How Iran is to be prevented from assembling a nuclear weapon and delivery system remains an intractable problem, any attempts to impose more drastic sanctions being blocked by Russia and China. (This is the same Russia which concluded a perfidious pact with Hitler during the Second World War). The time to impose effective sanctions may yet pass while we hurtle toward an inevitable point of no return.

The prospect of a military strike against Iran in the current tinderbox of Middle Eastern politics should give us pause. Can it even achieve its ends, and can it be contained? What will be the consequences to American and Israeli interests and American armed forces stationed in the area if Israel feels, justifiably, that the world community has squandered any leverage that it might have exerted and the only option remaining is a pre-emptive strike? While it is undoubtedly appealing to contemplate a defeated and humiliated Iranian regime, such a neat and decisive victory is not likely.

On Hanukah, as we recite *Al Hanissim*, we can pray that allied resoluteness, solidarity, tough sanctions, and covert action, too, will avert the need for a pre-emptive attack, though it should never be ruled out. This outcome would be preferable, I think, to the probable consequences of another military miracle.

Cantor Morris Wolk, D.Mus.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Shea Z. Lerner*

Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world. - Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5; Babylonian Talmud Tractate Sanhedrin 37a



How true this tractate is. Unfortunately, its overuse finds it becoming at times, cliché. Cliché or not, The Plainview Jewish Center has once again risen to the occasion to not only save one life, but the potential life of others needing Bone Marrow transplants.

During my High Holiday remarks, I alluded to a member of our congregation who suffers from a rare form of lymphoma; his best chance for a cure, is a bone marrow transplant from a fellow Jew of Eastern European descent. The congregant, Stuart Raskin and his lovely wife Glenna have begun a journey, to find that complete donor match.

With just two weeks to prepare, PJC hosted a Bone Marrow Drive on November 13th, bringing out potential matches from all over the New York/Metropolitan area. Gift of Life, the non-profit bone marrow registry we worked with, anticipated approximately 60 donors. By day's end, our drive collected an amazing 153 samples and countless thousands of dollars in donations to finance similar "drives" nationwide. Whether or not a match was found on Sunday for Stuart, and I pray we did, others in need of this lifesaving procedure may have found their cure. At any time in the future, those 153 people may be called upon to give the greatest gift of all, Life. Baruch Hashem!

Words cannot adequately thank Evy and Jerry Rothman, Dr. Edward Fryman, Andrea and Cary Crane and all the volunteers who willingly and unselfishly gave up their Sunday to accomplish this Herculean task. Kol Hakavod for their efforts in coordinating and administering this effort. Special Kudos to the Executive Board for sponsoring the brunch served to all those who came down to volunteer and donate.

Based upon our successes in writing and receiving external grants, Rabbi Conn and I have applied once again, for funding from UJA-Federation of NY to improve upon our website and other electronic forms of communication. Hopefully, in next month's Orbit, I will be able to announce our receipt of this important grant. I am grateful to Olga Portnoy, who has created and maintained our website and her willingness to Chair the new committee seeking to build upon its successes.

Time has come to once again create a new Strategic Plan for the Synagogue. The last one, Chaired by Past President Barbara Greenberg and written by yours truly, was completed in 2003-04. We are proud to say, that each of the recommendations made were implemented, and it is time once again, to create a direction for the Synagogue, based on input from all of its constituencies. To this end, I have appointed another Past President, Marty Leibowitz and Trustee Evy Rothman to co-Chair a new Strategic Plan. The Planning Committee is in formulation as I type; I am confident it will create a vision and direction for the shul even more successful than the previous one.

If you have not witnessed the renovations in the Religious School, come on down for a visit. Check out the Smart Boards, the White Boards and the Computer Lab. Take a look at the ongoing refurbishments to our catering facility. There's always something going on, all we need is YOU! Wishing you and your families a Chanukah filled with the lights of the Menorah!

“TO SAVE ONE LIFE, IS TO SAVE THE WORLD”

Mishnah Sanhedrein

On Sunday, Nov. 13th, Plainview Jewish Center held its first annual Bone Marrow Drive, in partnership with *Gift of Life*. The *Gift of Life* organization is one of North America's public bone marrow, stem cell and umbilical cord blood registries. Through its life-saving work, *Gift of Life* is a world leader helping children and adults find the matches they need.

Right now, there are at least 30,000 children and adults suffering from leukemia and other blood related diseases. Bone marrow donations are the key to survival. *Gift of Life* expected that Plainview Jewish Center's Drive would result in 50-60 people being tested for bone marrow donation. We should all be very proud of our synagogue and our community, because PJC registered 153 people.

We pray that Plainview Jewish Center saved many lives, and, if we saved one, then we truly saved the world... If you would like to consider being tested or making a contribution, please visit www.giftoflife.org.

Thank you for your support, generosity, and the love in your hearts! *Evy Rothman*

(SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 9)

2011 PJC BONE MARROW DRIVE



SHABBAT ALIVE SERVICE



Friday Night Service With Musical Instruments
At
THE PLAINVIEW JEWISH CENTER
Enjoy our live Klezmer Band
Friday, December 9th at 7:00pm



PLAINVIEW JEWISH CENTER

Sisterhood



JUDAICA SALE & CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE 3 DAYS ONLY



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Thursday, Dec 10th 4:00PM – 5:45PM
Sunday, Dec 13th 9:30AM – 1:00PM



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Parent Volunteers are needed for help in setting up and selling for the Chanukah Boutique. If you are available to help please call Michele Haimes at 822-0704. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL THE TEMPLE OFFICE
938-8610**

Family Education Corner by Judy Alper

As you know, these articles are always written several weeks in advance. Despite it being weeks before Chanukah, I find myself looking forward to it with great anticipation. It isn't the gifts that have been or need to be purchased, I've never looked at Chanukah as being about presents. It's really how the story of Chanukah reminds us of the strength of our people and how we have survived so many threats against us and have risen above them. At the same time, the menorah and its light gives us hope for the future of our children, our people and our world.

Join us on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 pm for our monthly Family Friendly Friday Night Service (FFFNS). It's a great way to wind down from the rest of the week and get into a relaxed Shabbat mode. If you've never been to a FFFNS before this will be a perfect opportunity to see how PJC can shine. The prayers and their melodies are joyful, invigorating and meaningful. You will find yourself ready to get up in the middle aisle and dance with the Rabbi and Cantor. There's an oneg following the service which is sponsored by members of the congregation and there is a wonderful atmosphere throughout the service. Email Judy Alper at pjcfamilyed@gmail.com if you have any questions about the service or sponsoring the oneg afterwards.

Our monthly *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!* meeting will not be held this month and will resume in January - the date will be announced shortly.

Wishing everyone a very happy and meaningful Chanukah

THE BIBLE CLASS KING DAVID: THE MYTH AND THE MAN

Looking for an hour of action, drama and excitement on Wednesday night? Take in a classic series that has been delivering the thrills for more than 2000 years. Join Rabbi Conn, for all the action on selected Wednesday evenings at 8:15 PM.

Rabbi Conn will continue to guide our class through one of the Bible's most dramatic stories in the Bible: David ascent to the kingship, his breathtaking successes and stunning failures. Join us for a lively and stimulating discussion of this riveting story. The class meets in the Library, usually twice a month on the first and third Wednesday. See the schedule of classes below. Refreshments will be served.

Free and open to all. Bring your own Bible or use the study sheets provided in class. No Hebrew necessary.

This Month's Schedule

December 7th	I Samuel 27-28	David the Traitor/A Jewish Ghost Story
December 21st	I Samuel 28-29	Ghost Story/David the Traitor Part II

CONGRATULATIONS! OUR B'NAI / B'NOT MITZVAH



SHARI SPIEGLER
December 3, 2011

Shari is the daughter of Elayne and Peter Spiegler and has two sisters, Rachel and Jacquelyn. She is an eighth grader at Mattlin Middle School. Shari enjoys playing violin in the orchestra, computers, reading, and spending time with her sisters. Her favorite holidays are Chanukah and Passover because she spends them with her family. For her Mitzvah Projects, she helped with the *New York Fun Walk for Pulmonary Hypertension*. She also volunteers in the Sunday School.



JOSH GRAHAM
December 10, 2011

Josh is the son of Paula and Michael Graham and has a brother, Aaron. He is an eighth grader at POB Middle School. Josh enjoys playing the violin, tennis, swimming and volleyball. His favorite holiday is Passover because of the family seders. For his Mitzvah Project, Josh has volunteered in the Religious School computer lab and has helped train the students and teachers with the new technology. He teaches the students Hebrew through prayer.



RACHEL KUBRICK
December 17, 2011

Rachel is the daughter of Shari and David Kubrick and has a sister, Emily. She is an eighth grader at POB Middle School. Rachel enjoys drawing, painting, reading, writing and cooking. Her favorite holiday is Chanukah which she celebrates with her family. For her Mitzvah Project, she collected children's books for the *Interfaith Nutrition Network*.

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SCHOOL NEWS *By Rachel Ginsburg, Principal*

The month of December is always associated with Chanukah. What do we celebrate on Chanukah? Most children will tell you that we celebrate the miracle of the oil jar. Some will add that we celebrate the victory of the weak and few (the Maccabees) over the many and mighty (the Greeks). Very few will say that we celebrate the victory of religious freedom and expression. Yet if we carefully study the Chanukah celebration, we will see that the value of religious freedom was the cornerstone of the Maccabee's strength. We Jews should feel very proud that 2000 years ago, our ancestors already realized the importance of this value and fought for it.

The American democracy is built on the value of religious freedom. Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Day were created to celebrate this concept. With all the beauty of religious freedom, we Jews should also learn how to maintain the treasure of the Torah. It is not enough to speak about it. As Jews, we are required to live a life of keeping the mitzvot. Here is an opportunity to perform at least one. The holiday of Chanukah will start on Tuesday night, December 20th. Each night we are supposed to light the menorah, adding a candle according to the days counted. This mitzvah was established by the Rabbis at least 1900 years ago. All of us are commanded to perform it, men, women and children, so we can publicize the miracle.

We plan to offer Chanukah activities in the classes and there will be a Chanukah party on Sunday, December 18th from 12:00-2:00 PM, sponsored by the Men's Club. That day school will start at 10:00 instead of 9:00 AM for Kindergarten, Sunday School, Mechina and Alef and will finish at 12:00 noon. Bet and Gimel classes will run as usual from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

I wish all of you "Chag Orim Sameach" (Happy Holiday).

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Dec. 4 (Sun) Tallit & Tefillah – Group A Session 6 – 9:00–11:00AM - Youth Building
- 5 (Mon) J-Flex (Teen Learning Program) – 6:00– 8:00PM
School Committee Meeting - 8:15PM in Library
- 11 (Sun) Tallit & Tefillah – Group B Session 6 – 9:00–11:00 AM – Youth Building
Kindergarten, Sunday School & Mechina Workshop -9:00AM - 11:00AM
(instead of Regular Class) Attendance required
- 15 (Thu) Express Innovation – 7:15–9:15PM - Library
- 16 (Fri) Preschool Shabbat Service – 6:00–6:30PM
Bet Class Service - 7:00-8:00PM
- 17 (Sat) "Shabbat As One" Junior Congregation – 10:30AM–12:00 noon
- 18 (Sun) Men's Club Chanukah Party – 12:00–2:00PM
- 19 (Mon) J-Flex (Teen Learning Program) – 6:00–8:00PM
- 20-21 (Tue-Wed) Chanukah Program at School
- 21 (Wed) Chanukah Menorah Lighting – 5:45PM
- Fri. Dec. 23–Mon. Jan. 2 Chanukah-Christmas Vacation – No School or Jr. Cong.

Note: The Bet Class service will be rescheduled for a later date

PJC YOUTH CORNER

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Chanukah. Youth Group has some amazing programs going on and I hope you have joined us for one this year. In Tironim and Kadima, we were able to use our creativity to create tie dye t-shirts. USY had a great time bowling with their friends. Our mall scavenger hunt was a great way to learn about one another and working together. We have great programs for December and for the rest of the year. Dinner will be served for all Tironim and Kadima programs. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Dori Lange, Youth Director at 516-426-6283 or lois_lange@yahoo.com.

December 4th - Kadima Movie Night 5:30-7pm
USY Surprise Program 7-8:30pm

December 11th - Kadima Chanukah Celebration 5:30-7pm
USY Meet at Ben's Deli 7:15-8:30pm

December 18th - Tironim Chanukah Celebration 5:30-7pm

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Doreen B. Guzik



Last month we held our Sisterhood Paid-up Membership Brunch at the synagogue. We had a wonderful turnout of women who have been members for years, as well as new members to our Sisterhood. The delicious food was provided by our new caterer and was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Elyse Schrage and her committee of dedicated women who worked so hard to make this event successful. We also held our 1st *Ema, Abba and Me* program. We had 10 children ranging in age from a few months to 4 yrs. It was such a wonderful program to bring to our younger members, and in one case, a non-member looking for a Synagogue to join. Thanks to Blayne Peltzman for running this fun-filled morning. We are hoping to do it again. And, thank you to Joyce Rimer for a great Double Chai Torah Fund evening and for her amazing desserts. These are just a small sampling of the numerous events held throughout the year.

Sisterhood is the collective identity for the Women of our Synagogue. It is an outlet for the creative energy, talent and leadership abilities. It also gives us a worldwide identity through our affiliation with Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Sisterhood needs the support of all the Women in our congregation. Your dues help to fund and implement our programs. The dues also contribute to our Synagogue, especially the Hebrew School. We help fund many Hebrew School programs including the newly installed smart boards. We all benefit from your participation, friendship, energy and interests. Your uniqueness will enrich our collective membership. **As Women of PJC Sisterhood we have a voice in the Synagogue - let us be heard!!**

Wishing everyone a Happy & Healthy Chanukah, Doreen Guzik

PROGRAM Debbie Zaglin - Program Vice President; Lily Elman - Program Chair

Come on Down!!! On Tuesday, December 6th, please join us for our most awaited program: the "Chanukah Price Is Right!" Enjoy an evening shared with good friends, fun, holiday treats, and fabulous prizes! We hope you will join us for a wonderful evening.

TORAH FUND - Rose Weiner, Torah Fund Coordinator

We would like to give a special thank you to Joyce Rimer who hosted our fabulous Double Chai Torah Fund Celebration and provided us with the warmth of home as well as her delicious home-made dessert! Tov!!

The Torah Fund supports our future rabbis, cantors, teachers and Jewish community leaders at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The money raised through our Torah Fund contributions is an important part of fostering and maintaining the continuity of the Jewish conservative movement. You can help in this effort by making donations to Sisterhood's Torah Fund or simply purchasing Torah Fund greeting cards. Occasions such as Mazel Tov, Get Well, Rejoicing with You, New Baby, and of course Condolences are all available for \$4.00 each. The cards can be purchased at any Sisterhood meeting or event, or they can be mailed to the recipient for you by contacting:

Rose - 935-0454, Joyce - 433-4826 or Barbara - 935-3510

EDUCATION

Chanukah, a favorite holiday of the young and old alike, is celebrated on the 24th day of the month of Kislev. This year, it begins on the the evening of December 20th. It is important for us to know the historical significance of Chanukah and to pass this information on to our children and grandchildren. It is referred to as the “Festival of Lights” and commemorates the victory of the Macabees over the Greeks whose King Antiochus had attempted to suppress the religion of the Jews. In addition to being victorious in war, another miracle occurred. When the Maccabees came to rededicate the Temple they found only one flask of purified oil to light the eternal lamp for one night but that small amount of oil burned for eight nights. Because of this, we celebrate Chanukah for eight days and light the Menorah for eight nights. The nightly kindling of the Menorah has become a symbol for both our spiritual and physical resistance to tyranny. On this holiday it has become traditional to play with the dreidel and give the children Chanukah gelt or gifts. We also eat foods fried in oil such as latkes and doughnuts.

This is a perfect time to visit Sisterhood’s Judaica Shop for some wonderful gifts .The Chanukah Boutique will be held on Wednesday, December 9th (4-5:45PM), Thursday, December 10th (4-5:45PM) and Sunday, December 13th (9:30AM-1:00PM). Thanks to many of you for supporting our Chanukah Boutique. Our thanks to Michele Haimes and her committee for all their hard work and for making our Judaica shop so successful.

Please mark your calendar - the weekend of January 27th-28rd is our Sisterhood-Men’s Club Shabbat. If you would like to have a part in either Hebrew or English please let us know. This is a wonderful weekend but it needs all of us to participate to make it meaningful and successful.

We all wish you a very Happy Chanukah!

LIGHTING THE CHANUKAH MENORAH

Over the centuries, various candlelighting practices have evolved. The practice generally accepted today, follows the tradition of giving equal importance to the right and left side of the menorah, indicating that God’s presence is everywhere. The candles are therefore inserted from right to left (the newest addition to be on the left), but they are kindled from left to right (the newest addition to be kindled first).

- The Jewish Book of Why

Sisterhood Special Project - M'yad L'yad by Sharon Kunoff

Many of you know that for the past several years Sisterhood sponsored a family under the M'yad L'yad program. A sponsored family is usually one who through circumstances not under their control finds themselves unable to provide more than the most basic necessities for their family. If a family or group undertakes to sponsor an individual or a family, they are obligating themselves to send items to that family about four times a year. Our previous family was one headed by a single Mom who was recovering from cancer and had just gone through a divorce. We sent clothing for the two young daughters as well gift cards and other extras to help the family cope. Fortunately, after a few years things improved and the Mom was well enough to go to school and earn a Master's degree and found full time employment which enabled her to feel she no longer required extra help. We were happy to have been there when she needed us. We never knew the family, nor did they know us, but we were kept informed of their situation and they knew we cared. When this family no longer needed us, our board voted to sponsor another family, preferably again one with school age children.

Usually jobs in Sisterhood are rotated and those of us who have been the mainstay of this committee are now looking for some other members to help with this project. One of the joys of Sisterhood is to volunteer with like-minded people to accomplish something of importance. Aside from helping others, the workers gain a sense of community and accomplishment and teach their own families about tzedakah in a practical way. We would like to find a few women who would be willing to either collect clothing when people respond to our requests for donation in this column, or to agree to have items dropped at their home until it is time to send them to the family. Of course your children could help with this mitzvah! Three or four times a year, usually around holiday time, the volunteers are responsible for helping pack the items and drop them off at the package store in Plainview. Once we get our new family, we will know what they need- sizes etc. and we will let our members know. Until we have our new family in place, you can donate cash which we will use to purchase gift cards as soon as the family is assigned and we know where they like to shop.

Please help by volunteering your time and or money so that we can start our new family off with something in time for Hanukkah!! You can email your interest to skunoff@optonline.net or pamba66@aol.com. Thanks so much!!

SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP

The *Sisterhood Judaica Shop* has gifts for all your holiday needs. We have a large selection of seder plates, menorahs, mezuzahs, jewelry and head coverings for both men and women. Our great holiday serving pieces, including platters and utensils, are wonderful for celebrating and entertaining with family and friends.

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FUNDRAISING Dvorah Lumerman - Fund Raising Vice President

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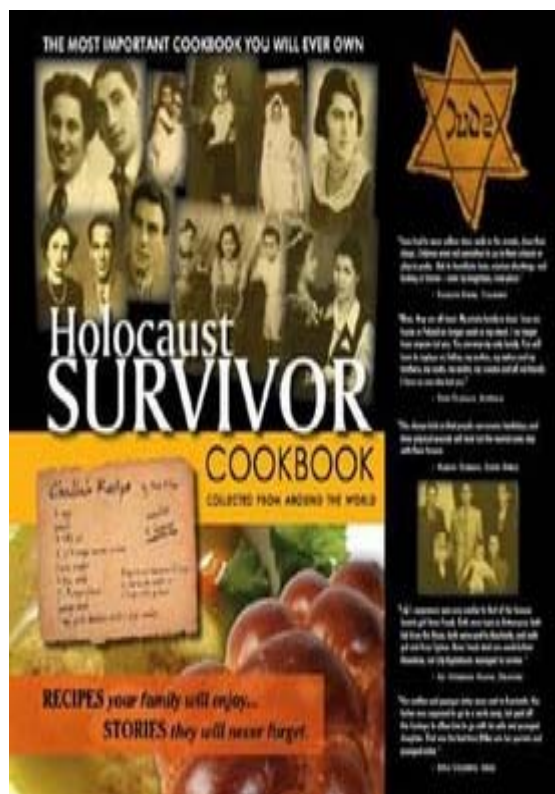
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HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR COOKBOOK

Our Sisterhood has added a new item to our list of fund raising which has already proven to be a great success for our temple. It is called the "Holocaust Survivor Cookbook". It is a beautifully published book containing 129 amazing and miraculous stories of courage & survival and includes over 250 delicious recipes which were favorites of these great people and their families. You will enjoy their recipes, but their stories will never be forgotten. They are selling for \$36.00 and the profits on every book will be donated strictly to the Plainview Jewish Center. They will be displayed at every Sisterhood meeting. Or, you can call Marilyn Cohen at 822-4553 to order. This is a great book to have for your home or for a gift for your family and friends. This book makes a meaningful gift. And, as a bonus, you will also be supporting our temple.

MAY WE SERVE YOU

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Diane Miller 935-7732

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Michele Haimes 822-0704

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Mitzvah Committee: Call Temple Office: 938-8610 (Shiva Set-up & Shiva Chairs Available)

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Illyse Conn Spencer Reis
Martin Bertisch Zelda King Sheldon Chassen
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*To our PJC members, if you would like to have a family member included in this section, please notify the temple office at:
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Israel Affairs by Sharon Kunoff

While I always try to be upbeat concerning Israel, the last few months were rather difficult. World opinion and the Palestinian attempts to bypass negotiation and gain direct recognition from the UN were rather disconcerting. Things finally took a better turn when I was able to report on the release of Gilad Shalit last month. This month I have found other indications that, at the moment, the situation is much better.

First, a short aside relating to Gilad Shalit, which was pointed out to me by Beryl Kwitkin. It is nice to have relatives in Israel who pass on interesting tidbits that aren't noted by our media. November marked 25 years since Yishai Aviram and Ron Arad, his navigator, parachuted from Israeli Air Force plane damaged during a bombing mission in the First Lebanese War. Both Aviram and Arad were wounded, but Aviram, awake and conscious, realized that terrorists would be waiting for them on the ground and he steered his parachute away from the area. He was rescued in a dramatic helicopter mission. He reported that Arad, who appeared to be limp and not totally conscious during the fall, apparently landed in the hands of Amal terrorists. In the intervening years, the terrorist organization has refused to disclose Arad's fate, claiming it does not know. In 2009, an Israeli investigative panel concluded that Arad had died. There has never been conclusive proof and there are many who have not accepted this assessment.

When Lt. Colonel "R"., son of Yishai Aviram heard of Shalit's impending return, he asked for and received permission from Air Force Commander, Brigadier General Ido Nehushtan, to fly him to his home in Mitzpe Hila, saying it would close a personal circle for him. "R" treated Shalit, at his request, to a second circling of his home before landing to the cheering and flag-waving crowds on the ground.

Last month I spoke about two big problems facing Israel with respect to Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority (PA). First, the success of his gambit to become a member of UNESCO, empowered him to say that his self-declared Palestinian state would seek to join other committees of the UN. Fortunately, Congress and the President did agree to withhold funds to UNESCO and this did have ramifications. The second was Abbas' bid to join the UN itself by applying to the Security Council. It was widely believed that the U.S. would not be able to stop them from garnering 9 votes which would then force a U.S. veto.

To consider the second problem first, at the moment the country composed of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the Security Council. Its president, a Bosnian, currently serves in this capacity. While Bosnia is Muslim country, its citizens are divided on the issue so Bosnia has decided to abstain, denying the PA the required 9 votes, which would have forced the US veto. As Jonathan Tobin, a correspondent for Commentary said last week, "Israel has severe handicaps in diplomatic forums as an anti-Western and often anti-Semitic Third World consensus is aligned against it. But what Israel's supporters often forget is that the Palestinians' tactics have not necessarily won them loyal friends and allies. Though lip service is paid by many of these countries to the idea of Palestinian independence and hostility to Israel, it turns out many of these same nations as well as much of the UN bureaucracy is more worried about the consequences of the withdrawal of U.S. financial support than they are about the sensibilities of the residents of Ramallah and Gaza. It may be that the real losers in this exchange will be the UN and the Palestinians themselves. By failing to force a U.S. veto, the Palestinians have lost a great deal of the leverage over Obama they thought they had. Instead of reproaching only Obama and Netanyahu for the inevitable loss of funds to groups like UNESCO, the

(continued on Page 24)

Israel Affairs (continued from Page 23)

world may also be blaming the Palestinians for trying to win independence for a divided people. (Remember Gaza, is still ruled by Hamas and not Abbas.)” Though Israel is far from out of the woods—with a General Assembly vote still a possibility and battles in other agencies yet to come—the last several weeks have served to undermine the notion of an inevitable Palestinian diplomatic triumph. If anyone looks foolish today, it is Abbas, and not Netanyahu.”

Before Abbas could make up his mind to try to join some other UN committees, the way he had managed to join UNESCO, he was faced with the knowledge that the U.S. withdrawal of funding was definitely affecting his standing with other member countries of the UN. The fact that the PA failed to get the requisite votes on the Security Council must have been the reason he decided not to implement his plan, and decided against going this route. At the moment the U.S. and Israel have strength on their side. It is hoped that the U.S. will recognize this when other situations arise, and will not waiver and try for compromise, in areas where it knows it is right and can win.

I'd like to mention one other small success of recent weeks. I'm sure you all remember the boarding of Flotilla bound for Israel by the Israeli Navy in May, 2010. At that time, while it was clear that the entire incident a set up to embarrass Israel, Israel suffered terribly in world opinion when several people were killed. However, since then, while other ships have attempted to land in Gaza none have carried any weapons as the one in 2010 did, and no one has been injured or killed. Israeli stops and searches these ships, sends them home and delivers legitimate cargo to Gaza by land. Since that time, there have been no real problems. A couple of weeks ago a group of ships again left Turkey, one Irish and the other Canadian. As has occurred in the past, the ships were boarded, made to land in Ashdod, searched and medical supplies and others were over landed to Gaza, the passengers were sent home and the ships and crews sent back. There was very little mention of this in the press. Supposedly Israel's right to secure its borders is being respected. Not a big deal, but another step in the road to normality. Meantime, have a happy Chanukah with a wish that the January article will also be a pleasant one. If any of you are planning a trip to Israel in December, please volunteer to record your experiences as a guest columnist.

M'yad L'yad (Helping Hands)

**Please join Sisterhood, other members of PJC
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Brian Spilkevitz	Shep & Barbara Slavsky	Martin Sands
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Jack & Charlotte Weingarten	Robert & Elaine Goldsmith	Roberta & Jeffrey Ende
Harvey Kwitkin	Richard Braunstein	Dr. Julius Wolk
Sylvia Passkoff	Barbara Alhadef	Robert Wilder
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Larry & Eleanore Abrams	Ellen & Norman Kaufman	Bernice Firestone
Janice & Howard Gellman	Phyllis Trust	Elizabeth Schmitz
Lillian Smith	Roy & Sandra Hoffman	Eleanor Tannenbaum

WE WISH TO THANK AND EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE MORNING MINYAN:

Irving Weingarten	Helen & Norman Spector	Robin Kaufman
Rhoda Meshover	Edward & Eileen Fleischman	Ervi & Susan Farkas
Jack & Charlotte Weingarten	Willy Hoenig	Dennis & Wendy Fingold

WE WISH TO THANK AND EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR THEIR DONATION TO PJC:

Eric, Sheryl & Owen Smallowitz, in honor of our Grandma/Great-Grandma Blanche Present Gloria Margolin, in memory of Bernard Paulker - Rabbi's Discretionary Fund & Cantor's Discretionary Fund

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Hatzilu Means Rescue

Hatzilu is reaching out to our community for help. This worthy organization has been assisting impoverished and needy Jews throughout Nassau County for many years. Volunteer social workers help elderly Jews obtain the government benefits to which they are entitled and food is provided to the hungry. Hatzilu maintains the largest kosher food warehouse in Nassau County and volunteers deliver food to people who need it desperately. The warehouse is in dire need of canned goods and nonperishable foods. Donations of these products would help restock the shelves that are almost bare.

Hatzilu appreciates all money donations as well. A food collection box will be placed by the main entrance of the synagogue.

Thanks for helping those in need. For further information about Hatzilu, please go to: www.hatzilurescue.org or call 931-2884.

Arlyne Skolnik

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MEN'S CLUB by Stephen Taub

The big event this month, of course, is the annual Men's Club Chanukah Party. This year it will take place Sunday, December 18th at noon. We will be serving latkes, hot dogs in a blanket and other nosh, and yes moms, there will be apple juice this year. And, keeping with our tradition, the children will be entertained by our favorite magician. Of course, the day is topped with our legendary, phenomenal raffle of toys. Bring your family, friends and relatives for a great time.

While you are attending the Chanukah party, don't forget to buy a box for our Super Bowl pool. Or you can leave a message for our president, Sandy Strenger, or David Dender in the PJC office or leave a check for \$20 per box made out to the PJC Men's Club. In January, we will be holding our annual Texas Hold em tournament. Watch for details.

The Men's Club Patio Players will be performing a musical. This year it will take place on consecutive weekends in March. Dates will be announced soon. Look at your e-mails, Hakol and Orbit for dates and time of the cast call.

Once again, the Men's Club is conducting a coat drive. If you have an old winter coat collecting dust in your closet, bring it down to the temple. There are many people on Long Island who would love to keep warm this winter. Finally, if you have not yet joined Men's Club, it is still not too late. You can send a check for \$54 to the Temple office made out to PJC Men's Club, or leave a message for Sandy Strenger or Fred Skolnick. Or you can bring your check or cold cash to the Chanukah party. Although you missed the paid up membership dinner; barbecue; Steak and Single Malt Scotch dinner in the Sukkah; and Meet the Candidates, there are still many exciting events left to attend. Keep an eye out for details in your Orbit or Hakol, or your e-mails.

Dear Congregants,

My name is Brianna Breger and I am reaching out to all of you to possibly help me to reach my Bat-Mitzvah Project goals. I have decided to collect any kind of eye glasses that people do not want anymore. There are many people of all ages who cannot afford to buy eyeglasses. My Bat-Mitzvah falls on the holiday of Sukkot. I wanted to do a mitzvah project that brings joy to people, since Sukkot signifies the joy of harvesting food in abundance. If I can have anything to do with helping people to see better, this would be so meaningful to me. I myself have been wearing glasses since I am in 3rd grade and I understand what it means to see clearly. Especially, as I grew up and needed a stronger prescription every year.

So if anyone reading my letter has any eyeglasses that they do not want to use anymore, won't you please bring them to the synagogue and place them in the eye wear collection box across from Rabbi Conn and Cantor Wolks' offices. By doing so, you will help me reach my goal of collecting up to 500 pairs of glasses.

Thank you, Brianna Breger



ATTENTION ALL CONGREGANTS:

**OUR WEEKDAY EVENING MINYANS
ARE IN NEED OF A FEW GOOD PEOPLE!**

**WEEKDAY MINYAN IS AT 8PM AND LASTS 15 MINUTES.
ANY DAY YOU CAN COME DOWN
WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
THANK YOU**

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Institute for Adult Jewish Studies *by Sharon Kunoff*

It is nice that many of you are enjoying this year's programs at the Institute. I am sorry to say though, that we still haven't had any of you volunteer to help us continue the programs by becoming part of the planning sessions. You are still needed!! You will not have to do anything until February when these sessions end, but if you join now, you will be on our email list to get the group mailings and you can make your opinions known as to how we are doing this year.

Our December schedule is a very good one. Those of you who haven't joined us yet, may be interested in one or all of the remaining speakers. The cost is only \$5.00 per session and you are free to sit in on any one of our courses which precede the lectures, to see just what we do. Following are our remaining programs for 2011.

December 5 Marc Courtade *The Music of Barbra Streisand*

December 12 Rabbi Moshe Shur *Kabbalah from Moses to Madonna*

December 19 Yale Strom *A History of Klezmer—from Medieval Troubadour to the 21st Century*

The Winter Session will be held at the Oyster Bay Jewish Center. All lectures begin at 8pm. The winter, 4 week schedule follows:

Women for All Seasons – by Rabbi Moshe Edelman

January 9 *From the Book of Ruth — Naomi, Ruth and Orpah*

January 16 *From the Book of Esther – Queen Vashti, Zeresh (Haman's wife), and Esther*

January 23 *Esther, continued*

January 30 *From the Book of Samuel – Hannah, mother of Samuel*

***Join us for the programs and think about being one of the PJC distinguished volunteers!!
We need you!!***

LEARNING SERVICE: Saturday morning, December 17th

Do you wish you better understood the Saturday morning service? Are you interested in participating more actively, but need some help getting started? Would you like it to go at a slower pace and be able to interrupt and ask questions? Then join us at Plainview Jewish Center on selected Saturday mornings at 10:30 am for a special "Learning Service." The service will be held in the Small Chapel. Lisa Hadar will lead the prayers and discussion. Following services join the rest of the congregation for a special kiddush. Open to all PJC members and the community at large.

SPECIAL CHANUKAH LUNCH AND LEARN Wednesday, December 14th

Join us from 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM for stimulating study, good food and even better company at our monthly *Lunch and Learn* with Rabbi Conn. This month, we have a special Chanukah themed program. RSVP to the Temple Office by the Monday preceding the program to join us for lunch. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. *Lunch and Learn* is usually held on the second Wednesday of each month. Open to all PJC members and the community at large.

PSSST! IT'S OKAY TO TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE

Respecting others' privacy is an important Jewish value. *Lashon HaRa*—gossip—is uniformly condemned by our tradition. But there is at least one exception. When someone is ill or in need of care and support, it is a mitzvah to tell people who can help.

In our community, the Rabbi and Cantor provide pastoral support to individuals and families who are suffering illness and those who need emotional support. The Rabbi also serves as the liaison to our newly formed Bikur Cholim Committee; which provides additional visits and support to those who request it.

Please let the Rabbi and Cantor know when someone in our congregation is ill; or when a family is dealing with a crisis. Only when they know can they reach out to individuals and families in need. Only when they know can they mobilize our Bikur Cholim committee to provide additional support. Don't worry that they might already have the information. Don't worry that you are "bothering" these busy people. The information you provide will be vital to helping our congregation to serve the needs of those who need us the most.

Rabbi Conn and Cantor Wolk can be reached at PJC at (516) 938-8610.

Rabbi Conn can be reached by cell at (516) 524-7447
or by email at rabbiconn@plainviewjewishcenter.com.

PLAINVIEW JEWISH CENTER CEMETERY GROUND

- Location:** Wellwood Cemetery at Pinelawn, New York
- Cost:** Single Graves available at \$550 each grave.
Family Graves \$500 each (minimum of 4 graves).
- Terms:** 25% down with interest free monthly payments
for a period of up to two (2) years.
- Eligibility:** Available to PJC Members ONLY.

For information call: **JOEL FASS 938-7351**

Sam's Mission

Hello. My name is Sam Iryami. For my mitzvah project, I have chosen something that affects me every day. When I was 12 years old, last November, I was diagnosed with a peanut allergy. I ate a peanut and had an anaphylactic reaction. Following this reaction, I had to change the way I select my foods. I need to read all food labels and ask servers about peanut usage. I wonder how other people who are less fortunate than I am stay healthy and survive their allergies with limited allergy free foods available to them. That is why I am collecting non-allergenic foods.

Some of the main food allergies include: peanuts, tree nuts, dairy, eggs, wheat, sesame, fish, shellfish, and soy. These allergies can be life threatening.

I am donating the non-allergenic foods to Long Island Cares Harry Chapin Food Bank. This organization has recognized the need for non-allergenic foods for the underprivileged. Some places that sell non-allergenic foods are Whole Foods, Fairway, and Trader Joes.

Please donate non-perishable foods that are free of allergens. Children that have food allergies who are less fortunate than I am would appreciate it very much. You can drop off the allergy-free foods in the box outside Plainview Jewish Center's main office that is labeled "Sam's Mission." Thank you for helping me with my mitzvah project to provide those in need with non-allergenic foods.

