

## WHITE LIES

*by Mike Harris*

When the subject was announced my first thought was compassion. A way to say something that is not offensive or denigrating. After thinking on this for three days and nothing productive emanating I put it out of my mind.

Over the holidays I had occasion to visit with my son. "What is the subject for Monday?" "White lies," I replied. "That should be easy," he said, "since Mom was a real expert at white lies." A little stunned, "I don't get it," I replied.

For the next period of time I listened to my son's story. It seems that my partner told two white lies, one that I was older than she, when in truth she was nine months older than I. The other white lie was that she went to Hunter College but dropped out. When my son found out he questioned a Rabbi: "Is there a Thou shalt not in the old testament about lying?" The Rabbi answered, "Yes, but it refers to giving false witness. Any other departures from the absolute truth that are harmless and in no way can hurt anyone and make for a smoother life are white lies."

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT! !!!**