

The Shofar

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March 2018

Vol. 90 Issue 3 (Published Monthly)

Congregation B'nai Israel: A Traditional Conservative Synagogue

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March 2018

Wed. Feb. 28/Adar 13
Erev Purim
Services, 6:30 p.m.
Megillah reading, 7 p.m.
followed by party

Thu. Mar. 1/Adar 14
Purim
Services, 8 a.m.
Cong. Toras Emes
3151 Hylan Blvd..

Fri. Mar. 2/Adar 15
Light candles, 5:30 p.m.
Services, 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 3/Adar 16
Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.
Services, 9:20 a.m.

Fri. Mar. 9/Adar 22
Light candles, 5:38 p.m.
*Shabbat Across
America*
Dinner, 6:30 p.m. (p. 3)
Services, 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 10/Adar 23
Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.
Services, 9:20 a.m.

Fri. Mar. 16/Adar 29
Light candles, 6:46 p.m.
Services, 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 17/Nisan 1
Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.
Services, 9:20 a.m.

Fri. Mar. 23/Nisan 7
Light candles, 6:53 p.m.
Services, 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar. 24/Nisan 8
Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.
Services 9:20 a.m.

Fri. Mar. 30/Nisan 14
Erev Passover
Light candles, 7:01 p.m.
Services, 7:30 p.m.
followed by Seder (p.7)

Sat. Mar. 31/Nisan 15
First Day of Passover
Morning services, 9 a.m.
Evening services, 8:p.m.
followed by Seder (p.7)
Light candles, 8:01 p.m.

Sun. Apr. 1/Nisan 16
**Second day of
Passover**
Morning services, 9 a.m.
Mincha, 7:45 p.m., fol-
lowed by *Ma'ariv*

**For other dates to keep
in mind, see p.4**



From the

Desk of

Rabbi Pearl

AS I WRITE this, our nation is still reeling from the events in Parkland, Florida. Shortly thereafter, a *N.Y. Times* article discussed, plans for a march on Washington to demand *effective* gun control laws. All of us are sickened and horrified by the repeated mass shootings that have taken place in schools, churches, universities and hospitals. While I am skeptical as to the chances for success, we all want to find an effective solution to these slaughters of innocents at the hands of deranged individuals who, through the laxity of our laws, can obtain weapons of mass destruction that serve no purpose except to facilitate murder.

While not presenting a detailed solution, I believe, in this moment of national crisis, a message can be found in the two holidays which frame the month of March. We commence the month with the joy of *Purim*, the holiday in which the unlikely result of the bad guys being vanquished, and the Jews emerging triumphant from planned annihilation is celebrated. The month will end with Passover, the holiday in which we celebrate liberation from slavery and the assumption of the responsibilities of a free people, represented by the Torah. Nice beginning and nice ending, but what does the framing of this month with celebrations of rescue from annihilation and slavery teach us to do with the days in between that comprise the balance of the month?

The lesson to be derived, I believe, is that survival and freedom cannot be taken for granted. That we endure, that we live free to observe the Torah that defines us, is not something to be taken for granted. Both our survival and our continued adherence to Torah is miraculous. By all the lessons of history, the Jewish people should have disappeared long ago. By all logic, our love and knowledge of

Reminder!

One of the laws of Passover is to remove all *chometz* (food not kosher for Passover) from your home. For a form to do this, see page 4.

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There are several ways you can remember a loved one or commemorate a special occasion.

Here are some ideas:

Call the Synagogue office (718) 987-8188:

to schedule a Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Baby Naming

to dedicate a Chumash (\$75) or Siddur (\$36)

to sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush

to make a donation to the Hebrew School

to reserve a date for a special function

to dedicate a leaf on our Tree of Life

to plant a Tree in Israel

Call Dr. Selman Berger (718) 948-5447 for information about our cemetery plots

Call Scott Diamond (917) 674-3317 for information about a Memorial Plaque

President's letter

WHAT A GREAT month this March is! It starts off with one holiday, Purim, and finishes with another, Passover. Both holidays, of course, involve celebrations, including special foods. For Purim, we have *hamantaschen*, and for Passover, there are the Seders, where the table is covered from one end to the other with delicious (and fattening) choices.

There is, however, more to both of these holidays than the rejoicing. On Purim, we read the *megillah*, which tells the story of how the Jews of Persia (now Iran) were saved from destruction. A happy story to be true, but it is also one of the many times our people have faced extinction only to be saved at the last minute. Another of these instances is contained in the Passover story. There, Pharaoh ordered all male Jewish babies killed. Had not G-d intervened again, that also would have been the end.

In each instance, the will of G-d was shown through the actions of an individual, Esther in the case of Purim, and Moses for Passover. To me, this demonstrates that while we pray to G-d for help, we must never lose sight of the fact that we have to be willing to do our part. Neither Esther nor Moses said, "I don't want to get involved.," or "Let someone else do it."

The same thing applies to our congregation. There is work to be done and hands are needed to do it. As I have mentioned several times, we rely on too

few people for what needs to be done. The consequences of this were shown when one of our more active members indicated that he needs to step back because of physical problems associated with age. That has left us with a gap that remains unfilled.

This is not to say that those who help are not appreciated. They are, more than I can say. For example, one couple that have been mainstays of our congregation for many years are Laurie and David Raps. Laurie, a former Treasurer and member of the Board of Trustees, is active in Sisterhood, is the guiding light for many of our activities, such as theater parties and baseball games, helps shops for our *onegs*, and is always there when extra hands are needed. David, a former president, leads services Saturday morning, maintains our bulletin board, helps set up our sanctuary for the High Holidays, is there when someone needs a *minyan*, and generally manages to be first in line when there is a special project.

Laurie and David, I am very grateful for your unwavering support. Thank you.

In the coming months, I will mention others who are deserving of special mention, but for now, please give consideration to what I have said. Being involved, takes as little or as much time as you can give. Whatever that is, it is needed.

Yours in fellowship,
Charles Greinsky
President

Rabbi's message (continued)

Torah should have been discarded in favor of more recent and scientific knowledge. Any yet, miraculously, we exist and we believe and observe. That existence and that belief are not to be taken for granted. Both are miraculous in nature, and must be celebrated as such

Our survival as a democratic nation in times of crisis like this is also dependent on a miracle. The miracle of American democracy has been the balancing act between individual freedom and national well-being. It has not always been an easy balance to achieve, and in times of war, liberties have been suspended for national safety. Now, as we balance our constitutional guarantees of the right to bear arms, with our individual rights to go about our lives without fear of demented individuals attacking us with automatic weapons that give them the firepower to kill in large numbers, we need the miracles of wisdom, political insight, and the courage to defy powerful interests. *Purim* and *Pesach* teach us that great things are accomplished through miracles. Let us pray for a miracle for our country in this difficult and challenging time as well.

Shalom,
Pinchas N. Pearl
Rabbi

Congregation B'nai Israel

invites you to join us on
Friday, March 9th, 2018 to celebrate
Shabbat Across America

6:30 pm: Dinner
(Appetizer, Chicken, and sides) catered by
One Stop Kosher

8:00 pm: Friday Night Services
Followed by dessert

Celebrate the Holiday that comes every week!

Please return the dinner order form to:

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, N.Y. 10306

Before, Monday, March 5th 2018

For additional information, or to pay with credit card,

Please call the Congregation Office: 718-987-8188

Adults @ \$22.00 per person \$ _____
Children (Chicken Nuggets) @ \$10.00 per person \$ _____
Children under 5 years old or in CBI Hebrew School – FREE _____

Total: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Other dates to keep in mind

- Mar. 4-Sun. Rabbi's study session
- Mar. 6-Tues. Ritual Committee, 8 p.m
- Mar. 7-Wed. Sisterhood meeting, 6:45 p.m., followed by Fun Night at 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 11-Sun. Rabbi's study session, 10 a.m.
- Mar. 18-Sun. Rabbi's study session, 10 a.m.
- Mar. 20-Tues. Finance Committee, 7:15 p.m. Board of Trustees, 8 p.m.

All Rabbi's study sessions are preceded by services at 9:15 a.m. and followed by a light breakfast

Thank you for your contribution

Contributions received after February 15 will be acknowledged in the April issue. Contributions with no specific designation are for the general use of the synagogue.

- Milla and Joel Abidor in memory of Emil Shrentsel
- Rhoda and Sandy Berger in memory of Robert S. Berger
- Gwen and Martin Brownstein in memory of Lillian and Murray Gelfand
- Vlad Cohen
- Diamond family for Shalach Manot supplies
- Estelle and Arnold Dunn in memory of Sidney Dunn

- Mel Fox in memory of Abraham Friedman and Benjamin Fox
- Alice and Steven Frey in memory of Louis Goldberg
- Beth Garfinkel in memory of Lillian and Robert Silverman
- Bette and Steven Goldstein in memory of Betty Bergman
- Ilene and Charles Greinsky for *Shalach Manot* grape juice
- Marcia and Bernard Jacobson in memory of Dora Jacobson
- Barbara and Norman A. Kanter in memory of Goldie Kanter
- Charles Kudler in memory of Betty Kudler
- Roger Lader in memory of Helen Lader and Ida Goldberg
- Sandy Levy for *Shalach Manot* supplies
- Adrienne Lowe in memory of Shirlee Solomon
- Inna and Barry Miltz
- Ilya Miretskiy
- Sharon and Joel Pekuly for Shalach Maanot supplies
- Laurie and David Raps for Shalach Manot supplies
- Diane and Harris Schwartz for hamantashen
- Francine and Ira Sklar in memory of Irving Boxer and George Sklar
- Barbara Smith for *Shalach Manot* supplies
- Masha and Jack Tabak for Shalach Manot supplies
- Tsvayg family for *Shalach Manot* supplies

Contract for Sale of Chometz

The undersigned appoints Rabbi Pinchas N. Pearl to act as agent to sell all *chometz* (leaven) products, belonging to the undersigned, found at his/her home, place or business and any other property belonging to the undersigned, to a non-Jew selected by Rabbi Pearl. The *chometz* will remain in the possession of the purchaser beginning on Friday, March 30, 2018 (14 Nisan 5778) at 10:30 a.m. After the conclusion of *Pesach* on Shabbat, April 7, 22 Nisan 5778) Rabbi Pearl will negotiate for the repurchase of the *chometz* after 8:11 p.m. on behalf of the undersigned. If negotiations are successful, the *chometz* will revert to the possession of the undersigned. You are requested to refrain from the use or consumption of *chometz* until 9:15 PM to allow for negotiations.

Signature: _____

Address: _____

The signed contract may be sent to Rabbi Pearl at the B'nai Israel office.]

While there is no charge for this service, it is customary to make a donation (*maot chittim*) so that all who are needy can obtain food to celebrate *Pesach*.



Yahrzeits This Month

Yahrzeits start on the evening before the date given. For additions or corrections to this list, please contact Scott Diamond at (917) 674-3317, or slzdiamond@hotmail.com

IF YOU NEED to say kaddish for a yahrzeit, please call the office two weeks before, and we will try to arrange a minyan. It would be helpful to bring a few family members and friends to the service to make sure of a minyan as it is not always possible to arrange one from our congregants.

Many congregants come to services Friday night to say kaddish.

Mar. 1/Adar 14

Helen "Chana" Chimarine, mother of Roberta Afflitto

Mar. 2/Adar 15

Lillian Brownstein, mother of Cheryl Guterman

Anna Levine, mother of Norman Levine

Doris Marin, grandmother of William Marin

Mar. 3/Adar 16

Doris Rubinstein, sister of Roger Lader

Mar. 4/Adar 17

Mildred Horowitz, sister of Bernard Persky

Ben Ratner, father of Dr. Steven Ratner

Miriam Rosenblatt, aunt of Aviva Levine

Edward Weiss, father of Stanley Weiss

Mar. 5/Adar 18

Sylvia Applebaum, mother of Arlene Gerstman

Mar. 6/Adar 19

Abram Shklover, grandfather of Mrs. Papirov

Mar. 7/Adar 20

Gertrude Harris, mother of Adele Harris

Dora Hirsch, mother-in-law of Gloria Hirsch

Mar. 8/Adar 21

Irving Erdman, grandfather of Charles Greinsky

Jean Slochevsky, mother of Paula Armband

Mar. 10/Adar 23

Abraham Cooper, father of Marvin Cooper

Mar. 12/Adar 25

William Spalding, father-in-law of Charles Kudler

Lawrence Wasser, father of Valerie Levy

Mar. 13/Adar 26

Gittel Klainminc, mother of Dr. Betty Jensen

Mar. 15/Adar 28

Joseph Cohen, brother of Al Cohen

Irene Goldberg, mother of Alice Frey

Mar. 16/Adar 29

Shirley Berman, sister of Anita Gordon

Mar. 17/Nisan 1

Fraida *bat* Pinchas, mother of Miron Berenshteyn

Harry Levy, father-in-law of Sandy Levy

Mar. 18/Nisan 2

Sylvia Herbst, mother-in-law of Florrie Herbst

Mar. 19/Nisan 3

Abraham Fruchter, father of Anita Sini

Richard Goretsky, brother of Jay Goretsky

Marlene Rhian, friend of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cramer

Mar. 23/Nisan 7

William Marin, father of Al Marin

Mar. 25/Nisan 9

Marilyn Ross, relative of the Ross family

Mar. 27/Nisan 11

Mordechai *ben* Meir, father of Miron Berenshteyn

Mar. 29/Nisan 13

Gary Ross, husband of Sharon Ross

Mania Saks, mother of Manny Saks

News about our members

WE WISH BETTE Goldstein, Rita Hauser, and Barbara Smith a speedy and complete recovery from their cataract procedures.

Condolences to Ana and Mark Cramer on the passing of Ana's sister, Lola Besen. May the Cramer family be comforted among all of the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Do you have any news that you would like to share with the C.B.I. community? This can be a birth, graduation, wedding, or other event. All that you have to do is send the information to the editor, at bnkanter@verizon.net

We are a community!

WE WORKED TOGETHER to make the celebration of Purim a joyous one, and to fulfill the *mitzvah*, of *mishloach manot*, the sending of food to fellow Jews to demonstrate unity and friendship. Thank you to everyone who participated in sending *mishloach Manot*.

Special thanks to all those who went a step further to purchase treats, pack, and help deliver the packages: Lee and Jeremy Brosnick, Berenshteyns, Jerry Clifford, Joel Cohens, Diamonds, Finkelsteins, Steven Goldsteins, Greinskys, Kanters, Mel Fox, Pekulys, Raps, Rappaports, Harris Schwartzes, Barbara Smith, Tabaks, Marianna Tsvayg and her children, Ethan, Jenna, Lea, and Leonid, our revitalized Sisterhood and Eduardo, our handy-man, who took over all the heavy lifting.

Sisterhood news

SANDY LEVY is back from her procedure and doing well. She thanked everyone for their concern. Rabbi Pearl did well with his surgery and will be back when he is sufficiently healed. Mark Cramer is home from rehab. Barbara Smith and Bette Goldstein had cataract surgery.

A wine and painting activity was discussed. It was suggested that we might do something a little different. Two possibilities are a different art project and having a comedian.

Marty Eisenberg made hamantashen on February 25. with the Hebrew School. (See also below.)

The packing for Shalach Manot took place on February 22. Barbara Kanter reported that we have enough food donations, so that all the money coming in is profit. She asked that people get their orders in as we were running behind last year. Delivery of the packages is March 1 and volunteers are needed .

Janice Rappaport gave a report on Bingo night which will take place on February 10. We are having a Shabbat Across America dinner on March 9 at 6:30 p.m.. It will be sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program. We are having both Seders at the shul.

Barbara Smith will be contacting Lisa Gessert who wrote, "Learning to Live with Less," to give a talk at a meeting.

Susan brought up the idea of adult Bat Mitzvahs. We will ask the Rabbi when he returns.

Volunteer assignments for shopping for *Shabbat* were distributed.

Our next meeting and fun night will be on Wednesday, March 7. The meeting will start at 6:45 p.m. followed by fun night.

Preschool news

THE PRE-K FOR All class will be welcoming Unit Seven: Water. The children will be exploring the properties and uses of water. The Two and Three Year Old Class will be learning about baby animals, spring, rain, weather, and rainbows.

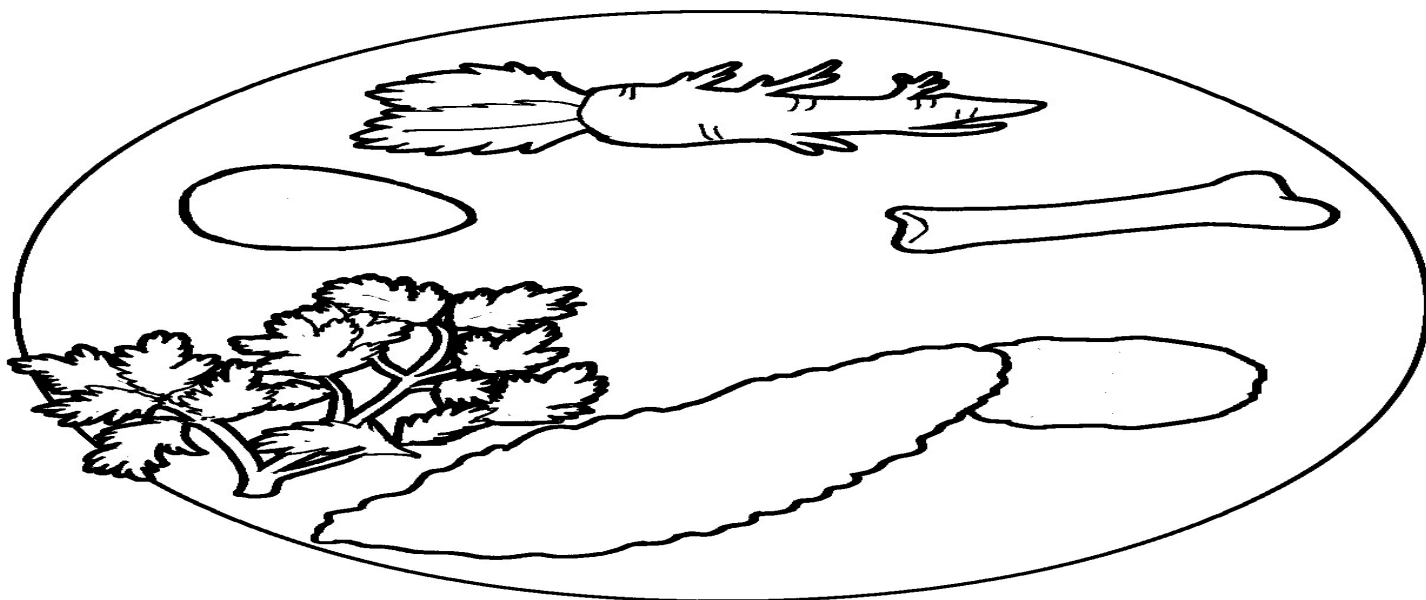
Registration for September 2018 continues.
Happy Purim to everyone!

The CBI Academy Preschool Team

Hamantashen bake starts Purim celebration

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, WAS A special day for the children in our Hebrew school. Sponsored by Sisterhood, our very own "Chef" Marty Eisenberg taught the children, their parents, and Sisterhood members how to make hamentashen. The children learned how to measure, mix, roll the dough and finally put the hamentashen together. There was a variety of fillings including apricot, prune, raspberry and chocolate chips. The children took home the hamentashen that they made. They enjoyed the experience so much that the children put in orders for more cooking lessons on how to make pizza, chocolate chip cookies and matzoh balls. Well, Chef Marty might have started a new tradition at Congressional B'nai Israel. Kudos to both Marty and Sisterhood for a wonderful learning and "tasty" morning. Looking forward to more such exciting events.

(Thanks to Barbara Smith for telling us of this event. —ed.)



Happy Pesach



PASSOVER ACROSS AMERICA 2018
In partnership with the National Jewish Outreach Program
Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m.

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
SI NY 10306
718-987-8188, office@sicbi.com

"We are proud to be one of a select number of congregations across the United States to offer this special program for Passover in partnership with the NJOP (National Jewish Outreach Program)

The Sedarim will be led by Rabbi Pinchas Pearl.
Traditional Passover menu provided by One Stop Kosher Catering of Elizabeth, N.J., under
the supervision of Rabbi Teitz

Reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, March 21, and accompanied by
payment in cash, check, or credit card

Please mail or bring the tear-off form with your payment. Make your check payable to:
Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306
Attention: Passover Seder

.....Tear-Off.....

1st Night, March 30 # ___ **Adults and children 13 years and over. @\$36 \$** ___
 # ___ **Children ages 5 through 12@\$18 \$** ___
 # ___ **Children under 5 years old, Free**

2nd Night, March 31:# ___ **Adults and children 13 years and over.. @\$36 \$** ___
 # ___ **Children ages 5 through 12@\$18 \$** ___
 # ___ **Children under 5 years old, Free**

Total.....\$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone Number _____ Email _____

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