

# The Shofar

ת"ס"ב

August 2018

Vol. 90 Issue 8 (Published Monthly)

**Congregation B'nai Israel: A Traditional Conservative Synagogue**

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## August 2018

Fri. Aug. 3/Av 22                      Sat. Aug. 18/Elul 7  
Light candles, 7:50 p.m.      Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.  
Services, 8 p.m.                      Services, 9:20 a.m.

Sat. Aug. 4/Av 23                      Fri. Aug. 24/Elul 13  
Services, 9:20 a.m.                  Light candles, 7:22 p.m.  
Services, 8 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 10/Av 29                      Sat. Aug. 25/Elul 14  
Light candles, 7:42 p.m.          Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.  
Services, 8 p.m.                      Services, 9:20 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 11/Av 30                      Fri. Aug. 31/Elul 20  
Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m.          Light candles, 7:11 p.m.  
Services, 9:20 a.m.

Fri. Aug. 17/Elul 6  
Light candles, 7:32 p.m.  
Services, 8 p.m.

### Other dates to keep in mind

- Aug. 7 - Tues. Ritual committee, 8 p.m.
- Aug. 12 - Sun. Barbeque and movie, 5:30 p.m.  
See p.8
- Aug. 15—Wed. Sisterhood meeting, 7, followed  
by Fun Night
- Aug. 21 - Tues., Finance Committee, 7:15 p.m.  
Board of Trustees, 8 p.m.
- Aug. 26—Sun. **Open House**, silver polishing, set  
up sanctuary, 10 a.m. See p.6

### President's letter

OVER THE YEARS, I have spoken of our various needs. They include our continuing need for funds, the lack of sufficient people to make sure that we have *minyans*, the work that needs to be done, and how overworked our volunteers are.

All of these problems have one root cause. We simply do not have enough members. Moreover, without anything being done about it, the problem will simply get worse, as those who make the effort get older and can no longer be as active..

This letter, however, is not just to bemoan our fate, and wring our hands in despair. That is not the way of our people. When there has been a problem,

**Continued on page 2**



**From the**

**Desk of**

**Rabbi Pearl**

WHERE HAS THE year gone! On *Shabbat* of August 11, we will greet the month of Elul, the month preceding and warming us up for the High Holidays. Can it really be that time of year again? Ready or not, the days of awe and judgment are upon us, and it is our duty to get ready.

We find no source in the Bible for giving this month special meaning or *mitzvot*. Yet, it is an ancient practice, dating from the sages of the Talmud, to use the month preceding *Rosh HaShanah* to search our hearts, to remove the blemishes of sin from our souls, and to arrive at the eve of the New Year spiritually prepared for G-d's judgment and for our own renewal.

One of the great storytellers of Eastern Europe, whose parables we read to this day, was the Dubno Maggid. In a famous story of his, concerning the month of Elul, a nonbeliever once approached him and challenged him to see whether he could influence him with his words of wisdom and transform him from a sinner into a righteous man. The Maggid told him the following parable.

A city man once came to a primitive village where he observed a crowd of people at a place where they were attempting to fan a small fire into flames by blowing with the force of their lungs. He explained to them that they could save a lot of effort if they would have a pair of bellows that would fan the fire for them. The villagers did not even know what bellows were, so the visitor made them a set and left it for them as a gift. When he returned a few weeks later the villagers pounced on him and angrily told him that his bellows did not work. They had tried with all their might to press and push the bellows but they could never start the fire. After inspecting the bellows, the city man told them that they were in perfect working

**Continued on page 2**

## OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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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 message continued***

we have always taken action to resolve it. Specifically, on August 26, at 10 a.m., we will be hosting an Open House where the Rabbi will be available to discuss our services, and representatives of our schools will discuss the educational opportunities at C.B.I.

All this is well and good, but we need to make sure people will know about this. That is where you, all of you, come in. On page 6 of this issue is a flyer giving details of the Open House. Copy it and spread it to as many places as you can. If you cannot make copies, come to the office and we will give you some. (Contact the office for a flyer in Russian.) The wider the circulation, the better the attendance is likely to be. In addition, if you have a Jewish neighbor or friend who is not a member, show him or her the flyer and suggest that they come down. If you can think of any other way to publicize this event, by all means go ahead.

My friends, it is not just helpful to support this effort, it is absolutely vital!

Yours in fellowship,  
Charles Greinsky  
President

### ***Rabbi's message continued***

order, and he did not understand why they did not work.

"Let me see how you used them," he said to them. "First of all, where are your lit

coals?"

"You mean we need lit coals too," the simple villagers asked in astonishment!

"Fools," replied the man, "bellows alone can do nothing. If there is already a lit fire, the bellows can fan that fire into great flames, but you must have the first sparks to begin with."

Said the Dubno Maggid to the agnostic, "My words can only influence a person who has a spark of *Yiddishkeit* already in his soul. I can attempt to ignite that spark and fan it into a bright flame of Torah and mitzvah observance, but as for you, whose soul is quite obviously dead, the spark has been extinguished. No words of mine can affect you no matter how inspiring they may be."

It is the challenge of all us to find the spark that will ignite the flame of faith and renewal we need this month. For those of us who are part of the B'nai Israel family, the spark is readily at hand. Our synagogue, with its prayers, classes, fellowship, and dedication to traditional Judaism is ready to kindle the fire of faith and commitment that transforms us this time of year. Join in, take advantage of all we have to offer. You will find the month of preparation the beginning of so many good things, if you will enter the doors of our synagogue and immerse yourself. May your journey this month be a successful one, and may your renewal be at hand and ready for the New Year.

Shalom..

Pinchas N. Pearl  
Rabbi

### ***Golden Book reminder***

AS PART OF our *Yom Kippur* service, we traditionally read the names of our dear relatives who have passed on. While many of us look forward to this reading, the fact remains that it takes a long time and others feel the reading disrupts the service. In order to keep the book to a manageable size, it has been decided to restrict the names in the Book to those who have purchased High Holiday tickets. We ask that you limit your listing to parents, siblings, and children. Thank you for your cooperation.

### ***Special offer from the JCC***

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY Center of Staten Island is offering a substantial discount in their Platinum membership fees to our congregants who have never been, and are not now, current JCC Platinum members. The enrollment fee will be waived (a savings of \$119 - \$199) and the membership fee will be reduced by 25% if it is paid in full for the first year. .

In addition, JCC members who want to join C.B.I. for the first time will receive a 25% discount. . This is a great opportunity for you to suggest to your friends who are members of the JCC that they come d

Seats Assigned (For office use) \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL  
45 TWOMBLY AVENUE  
S.I. NY 10306

**HIGH HOLY HOLIDAYS RESERVATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
GUESTS OF FAMILY (list additional names and addresses on back)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

|  |          |             |
|--|----------|-------------|
| FAMILY MEMBERS (MAXIMUM 2)                 | _____    | \$ 100 EACH |
| PARENTS OF MEMBERS                         | _____    | \$ 100 EACH |
| ADULT CHILDREN OF MEMBERS (Out of college) | _____    | \$ 100 EACH |
| CHILDREN OF MEMBERS                        | _____    | \$ 36 EACH  |
| NON-MEMBERS                                | _____    | \$ 200 EACH |
| NON-MEMBER CHILDREN (17 or younger)        | _____    | \$ 72 EACH  |
|  | SUBTOTAL | \$ _____    |

**WE DO NOT SUPPLY PRAYER BOOKS. YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN**

HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$36 each

MEMORIAL PLAQUES ARE AVAILABLE AT \$360 EACH (\$540 for nonmembers). TREE OF LIFE LEAVES ARE \$72 EACH. TO ORDER, PLEASE SEND IN SEPARATE SHEET

**HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGES:**

Rosh HaShanah \_\_\_\_\_

Kol Nidre \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

|                  |       |          |
|------------------|-------|----------|
| DUES             | _____ | \$ _____ |
| SCHOOL           | _____ | \$ _____ |
| TICKETS          | _____ | \$ _____ |
| MEMORIAL PLAQUES | _____ | \$ _____ |
| TREE OF LIFE     | _____ | \$ _____ |
| PRAYER BOOKS     | _____ | \$ _____ |
| PLEDGES          | _____ | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL            | _____ | \$ _____ |

Credit card: American Express \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

**To include names for Golden Book (see page 2), check here \_\_\_\_\_ and send in separate sheet**

### **Thank you for your contribution**

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

Ana and Mark Cramer in memory of Ninia Besen  
Ira Elias for sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of his father  
Alice and Steven Frey for sponsoring an *oneg* in honor of their son, the Honorable David Frey  
Laverne and Jack Gerner  
Arlene and Aaron Gerstman in memory of Emanuel Appelbaum and Ida Gerstman  
Shelley and Neil Harwayne in memory of Barbara Abraham, Allen Perner, Ann Perner, and Michael Perner  
Marat and Zoya Khalfin  
Larry and Naomi Kirsch in memory of Hannah Kroll and Louis Kroll  
Sandy Levy in memory of Gertrude Springer and Edith Levy  
Laurie and David Raps for sponsoring a kiddush in honor of David Raps's birthday  
Dr. Steven Ratner in memory of Ruth Ratner  
Judith and Paul Rosen in memory of Harry Zuniss  
Doris Wasser in memory of Sol Eidlin

### **News about our members**

A SPEEDY RECOVERY to Mark Cramer; Eileen Cooper's daughter; and Michael Pekuly.

Welcome back to Barry Kashubo from his trip to Colorado.

Please contact [bnkanter@verizon.net](mailto:bnkanter@verizon.net) with any news that you would like to share.

### **Sisterhood News**

THERE WILL BE a trip on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, to the Little Victory Theater to see "Barefoot in the Park." The cost will be \$22 per ticket. See page 5.

Rabbi Pearl has said that two of our Torahs can be repaired at the cost of \$5,000 each. Sisterhood will contribute part of the cost, once the Board of Trustees authorizes the repairs.

It was suggested that we make a *Rosh Hashanah* appeal to ask for volunteers to help us in various capacities (other than monetary). We need people to attend services, join Sisterhood and the Board of Trustees, and work on committees. Another suggestion was for the formation of a Men's Club.

Since lox has become very expensive, it will only be served if the Kiddush is sponsored. Rather than Costco cheese, Stop and Shop packaged cheeses will be purchased. If the *Kiddush* is sponsored, we will also get a whole whitefish.

It was suggested that we buy fruit that does not need to be cut up or small, individual packages of cut fruit, rather than an assorted fruit bowl because

the assorted fruit bowl goes bad and there is waste. We can also buy whole fruit for Veronica to cut for the Kiddush.

The following members have volunteered to do the shopping for August: Eileen Cooper, Susan Finkelstein, Bette Goldstein, Barbara Kanter, Sandy Levy, Janice Rappaport, and Laurie and David Raps,

For the Open House on August 26<sup>th</sup>, silver polishing cloths will be obtained and Nancy Cohen has donated the silver polish. Janice Rappaport will shop for the breakfast. The chairs will be set up for the High Holidays. Also, we will be holding registration for Hebrew School, as well as ticket sales. It was suggested that we put up pictures of the Hebrew School children from the prior year.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., followed by a fun night.

### **Preschool News**

IN AUGUST, THE children will get creative as they learn about the ocean. Shell painting with watercolors, making coffee filter seahorses, making sea life Play Doh imprints, sorting shells, and counting pearls for shells are some activities for our little oceanographers.

Registration continues for all classes.

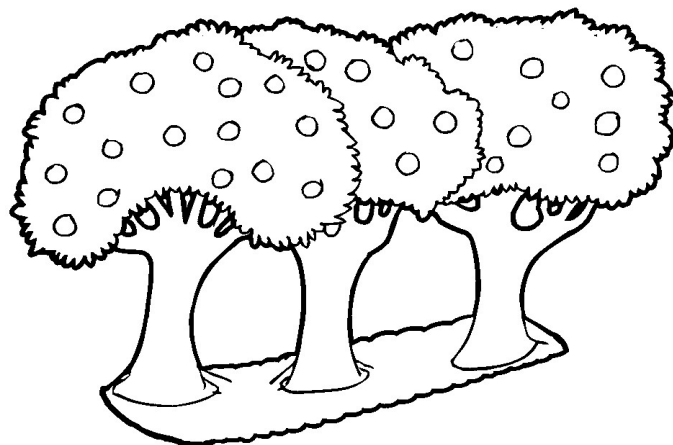
Enjoy the rest of the summer!

The CBI Academy Preschool Team

### **C.B.I. gives its regards to Broadway**

LAST MONTH, A record number of tickets were sold to Sisterhood's excursion, to the Little Victory Theatre, to see "Give My Regards to Broadway." All those who attended were delighted with the show. The singers were excellent and, at several points in the program, had the whole audience humming along.

Our thanks to Laurie Raps for making the arrangements for this show. We look forward to the next production, which, as noted elsewhere on this page, will be "Barefoot in the Park," on Aug. 19. See page 5 for a flyer with the details and an order form.



**CBI's Sisterhood invites you to join us  
on Sunday, August 19, 2018  
at 2:00 PM to see  
"Barefoot In The Park"**

**A Comedy by Neil Simon  
Directed by Cathy O'Hare**

**Location: Little Victory Theatre  
4089 Victory Boulevard  
718-524-8467**

**Please return the slip below with check payable to:**

Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel

45 Twombly Avenue

Staten Island, N.Y. 10306

For additional information please call the synagogue at 718-987-8188

**RSVP: August 13, 2018**

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22.00 per person: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Open House**

**Congregation B'nai Israel of Staten Island  
conveniently located in Bay Terrace  
45 Twombly Avenue, SI NY, 10306**

**Telephone # 718-987-8188; Email: [office@sicbi.com](mailto:office@sicbi.com)**

- Invites you to its **Open House** on  
**Sunday. Aug. 26, 2018** at 10 a.m.
- Meet our dynamic rabbi, **Pinchas Pearl**
- Learn about the benefits of membership
  - Free Hebrew School
  - Discount on High Holiday tickets with guaranteed seats
  - Half-price seats for Yom Kippur
- Hear about our programs for preschoolers
  - Pre-K For All
  - Two and three year olds

**Refreshments for all!**

**Special Discount for JCC Members**  
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SI NY 10306  
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***MEMORIAL BOOKLET ORDER FORM***

Please send your announcements no later than August 16, 2018. Rosh Hashanah starts the evening of Sunday, September 9, 2018.

**Rosh Hashanah Greetings**

**In Memorium**

**Cost per ad**

Inside front or back cover \$108 \_\_\_\_\_

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### **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](mailto: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.*

Aug. 2/Av 21

Theodore Appelbaum, brother of Arlene Gerstman

Aug. 3/Av 22

Max Gordon, father of Gary Gordon

Laura Koser, wife of Dr. Mark Koser

Aug. 8/Av 27

Lenore Hartman, sister of Norman Levine

Aug. 11/Av 30

Lillian Gerstenfeld, mother of Dr. Jack Gerstenfeld

Aug. 12/Elul 1

Aaron Kastell, father of Walter Kastell

Louis Raps, father of David Raps

Aug. 15/Elul 4

Helen Hoffnung, grandmother of Diane Schwartz

Aug. 16/Elul 5

Sam Hauser, father of Jerry Hauser

Aug. 17/Elul 6

Burton Sanders, brother of Gene Sapolsky

Aug. 18/Elul 7

Shlomo Klainmenc, father of Betty Jensen

Aug. 20/Elul 9

Harry Braunstein, father of Janice Rappaport

Nathan Preiser, father of Gloria Hirsch

Aug 21/Elul 10

Bernard Greenglass, father of Sharon Pekuly'

Abraham Kroll, uncle of Naomi Kirsch

Leon Kullback, father of Maxine Spierer and

Yolanda Zinn

Miriam Tasman, mother-in-law of Dr. Seven Ratner

Aug. 22/Elul 11

Leonard Kastell, brother of Walter Kastell

Aug. 24/Elul 13

Roslyn Greenzweig, mother of Lou Greenzweig

Aug. 26/Elul 15

Anna Preiser, mother of Gloria Hirsch

Alvin Resnick, father of Coby Forin

Harry Surpin, father of Nancy Cohen

Aug. 28/Elul 17

Miriam L. Sklar, mother of Ira Sklar

Aug. 30/Elul 19

Paul Kravitz, father of Carole Wassner

### **About our mishberach list**

EVERY SATURDAY, WE say a prayer for the recovery of those members and their families who are not well. The prayer is called *mishberach*. The names come from our members.

These prayers are important and we are honored to do them. The problem, however, is that very often a name is on the list and is kept there even though there is no further need for the prayer.

As a result, the list has grown and has prolonged the service.

In order to continue prayers for those who need them, and stop for those who do not, we will keep names on the list for four months. If there is still need for the prayer, the person requesting it can make another request at that time.

The present list will be kept until October. At that time, if you need to have someone put on the list, please contact Scott Diamond, [slzdiamond@hotmail.com](mailto:slzdiamond@hotmail.com), David Raps, [spar1012@netscape.net](mailto:spar1012@netscape.net), or Susan at the office, [Office@sicbi.com](mailto:Office@sicbi.com).

### **Just for the fun of it**

Harry was worried that his wife, Sadie, was losing her hearing, so he decided to test her. He walked into the kitchen and while her back was to him, asked "What's for dinner?" There was no response, so he got a little closer and again asked, "What's for dinner"? Again, there was no response, so he kept repeating, "What's for dinner"? Finally, Sadie turned around and said, "I've told you five times, we're having chicken."

*Once again, thank you Norman Levine.)*

### **Barbeque and movie scheduled**

ANOTHER ONE OF our popular barbeque and movie nights will be held on Aug. 12, starting at 5:30 p.m. Our master chefs will be preparing an excellent table, which will be followed by a movie, "Snow in August." It concerns a Catholic boy who befriends a rabbi after a Jewish merchant is beaten up by racist thugs.

Admission is \$10..





**Congregation B'nai Israel's Afternoon  
with  
the Staten Island Yankees vs. Brooklyn Cyclones**

**Sunday, September 2, at 1:30 p.m.**

Richmond County Bank Ballpark, 75 Richmond Terrace, SI NY 10301

**Ticket & Kosher Meal Deal**

- \$25 for adults (over 13)  
(includes \$10 meal voucher)
- \$15 for ages 3-13 (includes Kosher Meal)
- Free for children 2 and under

**To Purchase tickets**

Mail order form to:  
Congregation B'nai Israel.  
45 Twombly Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10306

C.B.I. name on park's high definition board

For further information, call Susan at (718) 987-8188 or Laurie at (718) 967- 4975

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**Order Form (Reply by 7/31/18)**

\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$25                      \_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$15 Total Ticket Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Congregation B'nai Israel

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

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