

The Shofar

ט"ב

November 2019

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Congregation B'nai Israel: A Traditional Conservative Synagogue

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November 2019

| | |
|---|---|
| Fri. Nov. 1/Heshvan 3 Light candles, 5:34 p.m. Services, 8 p.m. | Sat. Nov. 16/Heshvan, 18 Rabbi's class, 8:40 p.m. Services, 9:20 p.m. |
| Sat. Nov. 2/Heshvan 4 Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m. Services, 9:20 a.m. | Fri. Nov. 22/Heshvan 14 Light candles, 4:14 p.m. Services, 8 p.m. |
| Fri. Nov. 8/Heshvan 10 Light candles, 4:26 p.m. Services, 8 p.m. | Special <i>oneg</i> , see p. 4 |
| Sat. Nov. 9/Heshvan 11 Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m. Services, 9:20 p.m. | Sat. Nov. 23/Heshvan 25 Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m. Services, 9:20 a.m. |
| Fri. Nov. 15/Heshvan 17 Light candles, 4:19 p.m. Services, 8 p.m. | Fri. Nov. 29/Kislev 1 Light candles, 4:11 p.m. Services, 8 p.m. |
| | Sat. Nov. 30/Kislev 2 Rabbi's class, 8:40 a.m. Services, 9:20 p.m. |



**From the
Desk of
Rabbi Pearl**

Other dates to keep in mind

- Sat., Nov. 2—Movie, 8 p.m. See below
- Tue., Nov. 5--Ritual Committee 8 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 10-Rabbi's class, 10 a.m.
- Sun. Nov. 17, Rabbi's class, 10 a.m.
- Tue., Nov. 19-Finance Committee, 7:15 p.m.
Board of Trustees, 8 p.m.
- Sat., Nov 16—Karaoke night, 7 p.m. See p. 3
- Sun., Nov. 24 --Sisterhood meeting, 11 a.m.

November movie night

NOVEMBER'S MOVIE WILL BE "Aida's Secrets," described on Netflix as follows:

"This moving documentary chronicles the reunion of brothers Izak and Shep, born in the same refugee camp in postwar Germany yet unaware of each other's existence for 65 years. But they soon learn there's more to the story, including a family secret."
Refreshments will be served.

NOVEMBER'S CALENDAR IS not filled with Jewish holidays. It is, therefore, appropriate to recall that this year is the 80th anniversary of the voyage of the St. Louis, the ill-fated German cruise ship that left Hamburg in the spring of 1939 for Cuba with almost 1,000 German Jews seeking refuge, holding Cuban visas. The visas were revoked midway through the trip and the refugees were in a helpless state, facing the possibility of return to Germany and certain arrest. Patrols were established by the passengers to prevent suicides. The passengers floated in limbo until several European countries agreed to take them, providing temporary refuge until the Nazi occupation. The voyage was a sad commentary on the callousness of America towards the impending Holocaust and the ineffective advocacy of American Jews in a time of crisis. A newspaper in Richmond, Virginia published the following comment:

"[The] press reported that the ship came close enough to Miami for the refugees to see the lights of the city. The press also reported that the U.S. Coast Guard, under instructions from Washington, followed the ship . . . to prevent any people landing on our shores. And during the days when this horrible tragedy was being enacted right at our doors, our government in Washington made no effort to relieve the desperate situation of these people, but, on the contrary, gave orders that they be kept out of the country. . . . The failure to take any steps whatsoever to assist these distressed, persecuted Jews in their hour of extremity was one of the most disgraceful things which has happened in American history and leaves a stain and brand of shame upon the record of our nation."

Today, immigration and the status of refugees is one of the most contentious topics on our political

Continued on page 2

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

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

RATHER THAN COMPOSE my own message, I thought that Rabbi Pearl's two messages on *Yom Kippur* contained a lesson that bore repeating.

The Rabbi noted that at the opening of the service, the Cantor declares "we grant permission to pray with those who have transgressed." He continued that this is an acknowledgement that everyone is, to some degree, a transgressor – we are all imperfect. It is wrong, for reasons both pragmatic and principled, to hold that we can and should sit down only with individuals with whom we agree with the entirety of our being. If any community – all the more so a community as small as our Jewish community – chooses to sit down only with those people with whom we are in absolute lockstep, then we will quickly wake up to discover that we have nobody to talk to – not even ourselves.

He noted that everyone listening to him carried "wounds – devastating and minor – from the year gone by and perhaps even from well before." However, he emphasized, *Yom Kippur* is not the day to focus on those wounds. Rather, we should ask "Am I really unable and unwilling to sit down and try? *Yom Kippur* is the day that we concede that there are always at least two sides and that the world is never just black and white. Today we allow for the possibility that in our repeated assertions of the rectitude of our position, in the magnitude of the

wrong committed against us, maybe, just maybe, we too bear responsibility for what went wrong."

My friends, it seems to me that these words have applicability in our own Congregation. Too often there is a perceived slight that probably was not intended, that causes a rift to the detriment of the people involved as well as our Congregation itself.

In his sermon on *Yom Kippur*, the Rabbi recalled Ronald Reagan's famous remark when he visited Berlin and came to the wall dividing that city, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." In the same vein, he concluded that "tearing down the walls that separate us from each other is the real purpose of the *Kol Nidre* prayer."

We should all keep this in mind as we start the new year.

Charles Greinsky
President

Rabbi's message continued

landscape. The role of our nation as a place of refuge and safety for the persecuted of other nations is again called in question. On this 80th anniversary of a sad episode in American and Jewish history, we should draw the appropriate lessons from the odyssey of what the New York Times called "the saddest ship afloat" for our time and place.

Pinchas N. Pearl
Rabbi

Holiday services inspirational

OUR HIGH HOLIDAY services went off without a hitch. Our cantor, Milton Ackerman, chanted the prayers in a beautiful and meaningful manner, as did our Rabbi. In addition, Rabbi Pearl delivered two sermons on *Kol Nidre* night and *Yom Kippur*, as described in our President's letter, that were particularly thought-provoking.

The two clergymen were very ably backed up by several of our members, led by Mel Fox, Menachem Heller, and David Raps.

Working under pressure, the following people spent a Sunday morning and part of the afternoon putting up our *succah*. Joel Abidor, Kevin, Lee, and Lillian Brosnick, Richard Finkelstein, Mel Fox, Genady Garber, Dr. Steve Goldstein, Alex and Zachary Granovsky, Barry Kashubo, Marat Khalfin, Sheldon Lynn, Regina Perel, Kari Petillo, David Raps, Yuriy Rudshteyn, and Jack Tabak.

Two other people deserve special mention. Our office manager, Susan Finkelstein, handled the vast amount of paperwork associated with the holidays, and our indefatigable handyman, Eduardo, not only helped set up chairs, and erect the *succah*, but dismantled it all by himself.

Our gratitude goes to all.

Join us for
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL'S
Fourth Annual
Family Fun **KARAOKE** Night

Menu:

Bagels, Tuna, Egg Salad, Grilled Vegetables, etc.

Desserts: Make Your Own Sundae, Cookies, Fruit

on

SATURDAY, November 16, 2019 AT 7:00 PM



BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND SING ALONG!

Congregation B'nai Israel

45 Twombly Ave.

Staten Island, NY 10306

718-987-8188, office @cbi.com

(Cut here and return to C.B.I. by November 12, 2019)

Name _____

_____ Adults and children 13 years and over @\$20 \$ _____

_____ Children ages 5 - 12 @ \$10 \$ _____

Children under 5 yrs old, no charge \$ _____ Total



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 for a minyan. It would be helpful for you to bring a few family members and friends 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. It is customary to make a contribution in memory of the loved one..

Nov. 1/Heshvan 3

Chaim ben Yisroel, father of Flora Berenshteyn

Nov. 2/Heshvan 4

Alexander Krongauz, father of Tanya Gutt

Nov. 3/Heshvan 5

Philip Tenezapf, grandfather of Sandy Levy

Tessie and Murray Weiss, parents of Manny Weiss

Nov. 4/Heshvan 6

Gerty Benesch, mother of Steven Epstein

Max Besen, father of Ana Cramer

Shirley Dunn, mother of Arnold Dunn

Nov. 5/Heshvan 7

Sara Tenenzapf, grandmother of Sandy Levy

George Wolff, father of Barbara Kanter

Nov. 6/Heshvan 8

Jenny Zuniss, mother of Judy Rosen

Nov. 8/Heshvan 10

Chairm Guterman, father of Mike Guterman

Gitsina Alta Isaakonova, mother of Yakov Gitsin

Mildred Kroll, relative of Naomi Kirsch

Isaak Rudshteyn, father of Yuriy Rudshteyn

Nov. 9/Heshvan 11

Bella Schnall, mother of Jerry Schnall

Nov. 10/Heshvan 12

Lillian Eidlin, mother of Doris Wasser

Nov. 11/Heshvan 13

Galina Khalfin, mother of Marat Khafin

Nov. 12/Heshvan 14

Morris Kettner, father of Bette Goldstein

Nov. 13/Heshvan 15

Sara Szymanski, mother of Marsha Schnall

Nov 14/Heshvan 16

Israel Holder, uncle of Blanche Myron

Nov. 19/Heshvan 21

Yetta Sohn, mother of Rita Eisenberg

Nov. 25/Heshvan 27

Rebecca Herzekow, grandmother of Diane Schwartz

Rose Gilden Tilden, aunt of Cheryl Guterman

Nov. 27/Heshvan 29

Miriam Goretsky, mother of Jay Goretsky

Nov. 30/Kislev 2

Jeane Epstein, mother-in-law of Al Marin

Irene Schwartz, mother of Harris Schwartz

Preschool News

ALL OF THE children in our two preschool programs are enjoying the New York City Department of Education's units of study, with an additional emphasis on emotional and social support through continual guidance from a social worker and an instructional coordinator employed by the NYCDOE.

Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving!

The CBI Academy Preschool Team

Succoth features some delicious meals

THE WEATHER COOPERATED and we were able to fulfill the *mitzvah* of eating six meals in the *succah*.

And what meals they were! They featured chicken, brisket, some excellent side dishes and mouth-watering desserts.

These meals, of course, did not appear by themselves. They were arranged for by Barbara Kanter, working from the orders assembled by Susan Finkelstein, who made two trips to New Jersey to pick them up. She received help in setting up and serving from Heli Aplebaum, Jeremy and Lee Brosnick, Gavi Kanter, and, of course, Veronica. Others as well, too numerous to mention, pitched in with clean-up and other tasks related to the meals.

Our deepest gratitude to all who participated and made these meals the joyous events that they were.

Special Oneg

HAVING A BIRTHDAY or wedding anniversary this month? Why not come to services on Friday night, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m., when we will celebrate all the November birthdays and anniversaries being observed by our members.

After a short service, there will be an *oneg*, featuring a special cake to celebrate the occasions.

**CBI invites you to join us to celebrate
Shabbat & Chanukah on**

**Friday, December 20th @ 6:30 pm
with dinner catered by One Stop Kosher
followed by
Services at 8:00 pm**

Menu:

**Roast Chicken, Gefilte Fish, Potato Latkes, Grilled
Vegetables, and Jelly Donuts of course!**

**Celebrate Shabbat!
Celebrate Chanukah!**

**Please return the dinner order form before
Dec. 17, 2019 and make check payable to:**

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Ave.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10306-3807

___ Adult Dinners @ \$22.00 per person: \$ _____
___ Chicken Nuggets for children ages 5-11 @ \$10.00 per child: _____
___ (Free only for children currently attending our
Hebrew School and for children under 5 years of age)

Total: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

Thank you for redeeming your pledges

THE HOLIDAYS MAY have been late, but many of those who came were early in paying their pledges and we are grateful to them all.

Those who have come through are: Anna Alekseyeva, Avraham Ashkenazi, Maya and Max Aybinder, Eleonora Bayvelman, Inna Belushin, Flora and Miron Berenshteyn, Olga Boroday, Esther Capadora, Rita and Marty Eisenberg, Stella and Vladimir Elgort, Susan and Richard Finkelstein, Mel Fox, Alice and Steven Frey, Rae and Joel Ganzman, Zoya Gitelman, Jay Goretsky, Ilene and Charles Greinsky, Tatyana and Vlad Gutt, Gloria Hirsch, Joan and Ivan Holzer, Marina and Arkadiy Kagan, Barbara and Norman A. Kanter, Irina and Gennadiy Katsnelson, Marina Kaufman Ida and Mikhail, Khilinskaya, Naomi and Lawrence Kirsch, Zoya and Alex Leonoff, Norman Levine Ella Ligay, Sheldon Lynn, Yergeniya Mazurovsky, Mikhail Nemstov, Yelena and Yevgeniy Oleynik, Igor Palatsky, Lillian Phillips, Laurie and David Raps, Janet and Michael Rocco, Deborah and Alvin Sall, Roberta and Eugene Sapolsky, Diane and Harris Schwartz, Caryn and Howard Schwartz, Laura and David Shamailov, Svetlana and Edward Shraga, Marlene and Abraham Spector, Helen and Dr. Stuart Suss, Victoria Teper, Ellen and Usevolod Uchitelev, Inna and Alexander Vayser, Bella Vobyovov, Josef Waisman, Judy Weisberg, and Dorina and Avram Yugrakh.

Sisterhood news

THE DINNERS AND the theater party went well. Janice gave a report on the karaoke fund raiser on November 16. Barbara Smith said that she may be able to get the fire department and CASC (Community Agency for Senior Citizens) to give a presentation at a meeting.

Mark Gold would like to do a power-point presentation about the history of the Gold company. We will check his availability and set a date. Barbara Smith suggested that we have a "trash to treasures" sale where people would bring items in for sale. Bette Goldstein spoke to Nico, the self defense instructor, about a session. She will check his availability. Barbara Kanter discussed keeping the kitchen kosher.

The shoppers for November are: Eileen Cooper, Susan Finkelstein, Barbara Kanter, Sandy Levy, Janice Rappaport, Laurie Raps, and Barbara Smith.

Message from AJC

RABBI PEARL RECENTLY received the following message from the American Jewish Committee that he asked to be shared with the Congregation.

"On behalf of AJC, thank you for participating in #ShowUpForShabbat this past weekend, welcoming guests into your community, and joining AJC in

highlighting the significance of this past *shabbat* and speaking out against antisemitism.

"On the one-year anniversary of the unspeakable horror at Congregation Dor Hadash, New Light Congregation and L'Simcha Congregation within Pittsburgh's Tree of Life building the show of solidarity and the outpouring of love and support was extremely moving and powerful. Your community was one of over 300 across the country that participated in #ShowUpForShabbat and for that we are grateful.

"For those of you who joined us yesterday and partnered with us on our Day of Action Against Antisemitism at Central Synagogue, thank you. In the words of NYS Attorney General Letitia James "The most powerful tool we have is each other, to stand together." If you missed the program or wish to view it again, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/centralsynagogue/videos/407906716573277/>."

News about our members

OUR CONDOLENCES to Janice and Neal Rappaport, and their daughter, Alison, on the passing of their beloved son and brother, Scott B. Rappaport. May they be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and know from no further sorrow for many years.

Welcome our new members, Alex Granovsky and Marina Veber, and their son, Zachary to our CBI family. We look forward to seeing them at services and our functions.

Please let us know of events in your family so that we may share them with the our congregation. Contact Norman A. Kanter, bnkanter@verizon.net, or call (718) 351-9150.

Thank you for your contribution

Contributions received after October 15 will be acknowledged in the December issue. If there is no reason given for the donation, it is meant to help support our Congregation. Please consider making a similar contribution

Milla and Joel Abidor, in memory of Scott Rappaport Al and Sophia Cohen in memory of Sol Cohen Linda and Scott Diamond for their donation of five *lulavs* and *etrogim*

Barbara and Norman A. Kanter, in memory of Scott Rappaport

Sharon and Joel Pekuly, in memory of Scott Rappaport

Regina and Sam Perel for sponsoring a *kiddush* Laurie and David Raps in memory of Mildred Raps Diane and Harris Schwartz, in memory of Mark Cramer, Valerie Levy, and Alan Weisberg, and for their donation of apples and chocolate for *Simchat Torah*

Norman Smith, in memory of Beverly Smith

Doris Wasser, in memory of Lawrence Wasser

C.B.I. has a fun time at the theatre

THE LAUGHTER STARTED from the time the play started until the last line when a group of us went to see "Arsenic and Old Lace." Although all of us were familiar with the story, familiarity did not lessen the enjoyment.

The afternoon continued into the evening as most of us met for a delicious dinner.

We are very grateful to Laurie Raps, who made the arrangements for the show and dinner.

Book club news

IT WAS A very unpleasant day outside, but a very enjoyable one inside as several members and the Rabbi discussed "Kaddish.com," by Nathan Englander. The consensus was that it was a well-written, thoughtful piece of work, that raised a number of questions. The morning was made even brighter by the serving of homemade French toast by Barbara Kanter.

The next selection, recommended by Laurie Raps, is "We Were the Lucky Ones," by Georgia Hunter.

Amazon describes the book as: "It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety.

"As one sibling is forced into exile, another attempts to flee the continent, while others struggle to escape certain death, either by working grueling hours on empty stomachs in the factories of the ghetto or by hiding as gentiles in plain sight. Driven by an unwavering will to survive and by the fear that they may never see one another again, the Kurcs must rely on hope, ingenuity, and inner strength to persevere."

"An extraordinary, propulsive novel, 'We Were the Lucky Ones' demonstrates how in the face of the twentieth century's darkest moment, the human spirit can endure and even thrive."

Please obtain the book so that we can schedule the next meeting of the Book Club .

A night of glass

IT BEGAN WITH an assassination. A young man from a family of Polish Jews who had emigrated to Germany in 1911 was living in Paris when he received word from his family that they had been expelled and were penniless. He bought a revolver, went to the

German embassy and killed a diplomat with the Foreign Office, who, ironically, was under Gestapo investigation for being politically unreliable.

This incident provided the Nazis with the pretext they needed to implement a large scale movement against the Jews that was effectively the start of their Final Solution, *i.e.*, the elimination of the Jewish population in Europe.

The day after the assassination, Jewish children were barred from public schools, Jewish cultural activities were suspended, and Jewish publications were halted. That, however, was only the beginning. A telegram was sent to the German police that they were not to interfere with riots that were to begin and they were to arrest "healthy male Jews," for transfer to concentration camps.

On November 9, 1938, the German diplomat died of his wounds. Shortly thereafter, the riots started. About 7,500 of the storefronts of Jewish businesses were shattered, thus giving the name *Krisallnacht* (Crystal Night). Nearly all of the synagogues in Germany were destroyed and about 30,000 men were arrested and taken to concentration camps. Most were released on condition that they leave Germany. It is estimated that over 2,000 deaths were directly or indirectly attributable to *Kristallnacht*. As a final touch, the Jewish communities were fined one billion reichsmarks (over \$500 million).

The terror was not limited to Germany. Most of the synagogues in Austria were also totally or partially destroyed, over 800 businesses were destroyed as well and 100,000 Jews were arrested.

On Nov. 9, we will mark the 81st anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. It would be appropriate to pause at some time that day, remember the events, and vow, "Never Again."

Make your reservations now

THERE ARE TWO events coming up that promise to be a lot of fun.

The first is our annual karaoke night on Nov 16. This will give everyone with a good voice (and those with not-so-good ones) to sing. There will also be games and refreshments. See the flyer on page 3.

The other event is our Chanukah dinner on December 20. What better way to celebrate the holiday than by getting together, singing songs, and joining in the spirit of the occasion. For more details, see the flyer on page 5.

We are grateful to our Adult and Family Activities committee for their efforts in arranging for these two events. Please come to show your appreciation and have two great times, as well. Talk about a "win-win" deal!

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