

THE SHOFAR

FEBRUARY 2020 (Published Monthly)

Congregation B'nai Israel:

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

I write these words returning home on a cold January day from the March Against Hate and Fear. This march, which extended from Foley Square in Lower Manhattan to Cadman Plaza in downtown Brooklyn, was organized by UJA Federation and the New York Board of Rabbis as a protest against the recent wave of violent attacks against Jews, most frequently Orthodox Jews and Chassidim on the streets of New York and in a private home in Monsey, New York.

Despite the low temperatures and chilling winds, there was a massive turnout. At times, the "march" seemed more like a shuffle as the large numbers of people, many holding placards with messages against hatred generally and anti-Semitism specifically, slowly made its way from Foley Square onto the walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge and across the river to Brooklyn. It was great to see the large numbers of people, to feel the friendly spirit and camaraderie of the participants, and the restrained, orderly behavior of the marchers. There was some chanting, some singing, but mostly it was people who quietly wanted to express their dismay at the violence and hatred that has engulfed our community.

Governor Cuomo, Mayor DiBlasio and a host of public officials led the march and adjourned to Cadman Plaza for speeches condemning hatred and violence. New York Jews should be proud of the large turnout and positive image projected by the marchers.

One aspect of the day disturbed me. The brunt of the violence has been directly to what we would call "Ultra-Orthodox" Jews; Chassidim whose dress and speech clearly marks them as Jews. That was the segment of our community that was missing

from the march. Participants were either secular Jews, Reform or Conservative Jews or Modern Orthodox Jews. No payis, no black hats or long black coats were visible. When we exited the bridge, there was a small contingent of Neturei Karta, the anti-Zionist fringe group that takes any opportunity to wave signs condemning Israel, but they are so marginal that they don't count and weren't part of the march. Why was the part of our community that is the primary target of hatred not present to protest it?

Jews have a fatal flaw; that of splitting into sectarian groups that refuse to unite no matter what the crisis might be. From the wars against the Romans that destroyed the Temple to confronting Nazis, Jews have never been able to speak with one voice. There have always been those who, for principles or beliefs, stand apart. This is unique, however, that the group most under attack refuses to join with the larger community seeking to defend it.

Let us hope and pray that this time of hatred comes to an end. Let us also hope and pray that common sense and self-preservation prevails to unite our people in this time of crisis. Our disunity can only hurt us and give joy to our enemies.

OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

2/07 - 5:03 pm - Shevat 12

2/14 - 5:12 pm - Shevat 19

2/21 - 5:20 pm - Shevat 26

2/28 - 5:28 pm - Adar 3

ALL FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES AT 7:30 PM

ALL SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES AT 9:20 AM

RABBI'S SATURDAY CLASS MEETS

AT 8:40 am – 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 & 2/19

Parsha Class

RABBI'S SUNDAY CLASS MEETS AT

10:00 am – 2/2, 2/9, & 2/23

Anti-Semitism: Where did it come from and how do we fight it?

ADDITIONAL MEETING DATES & EVENTS

(Please mark your calendars)

2/4 - Tues.	Purim Meeting	10:00 am
	Ritual Committee	8:00 pm
2/09 - Sun.	Sisterhood Meeting	11:00 am
2/18 - Tues.	Finance Committee	7:15 pm
	Board of Trustees	8:00 pm
2/28 - Fri.	Shabbat Across America	
3/25 – Wed.	CASC Presentation	7:00 pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Milla and Joel Abidor for sponsoring the Friday Night Oneg on 1/17 in honor of Milla's parents.

Leonid Bromberg

Iris & Sheldon Cohen

Gary Gordon

Nina Kachar

Sheldon Lynn

Mikhail & Yelena Makhnin

Ilya Miretskiy

Sandra & Stephen Poris

Eugene & Roberta Sapolsky

Aleksander Granovsky & Marina Veber

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF:

Iris & Sheldon Cohen Harry Cohen & Nathan Cohen

Michael & Eleanor Dovdavyan – Murray & Rachel Dovdavyan

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Scott & Bonnie Rosner Herbert Rosner

Diane & Harris Schwartz Aaron Herzekow & Florence Herzekow

Ira & Francine Sklar Ira's brother

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

We all have special days in our lives that we like to share with friends and relatives: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings etc. Those can be shared with your relatives, friends and the CBI congregation by sponsoring an *Oneg* on Friday night or a *Kiddush* on Saturday morning. The cost is reasonable and a lovely way to celebrate an occasion.

In addition, if you would prefer, A Chumash or Siddur can be donated or a leaf on our Tree of Life can be dedicated in honor of a person or special event. Contributions to the Hebrew School are also welcome. Call the Synagogue office (718-987-8188) for more information or to make arrangements.



Thank You!

PURIM PROJECT UPDATE

Our Annual Purim project, the giving of Mishloach Manot, is in full motion thanks to a wonderful committee and the people who have already contributed. We need all of our members to participate, however, in order to make it a success

Previously, this effort has been the second biggest fundraiser of the year for our synagogue. With your help, we can do this again.

We can still use more contributions to fill the bags. If you would like to contribute a food item or make a monetary donation to be used for purchasing food items, contact Laurie Raps at 718-967-4975 who is coordinating the items donated for this project. If you need help with the Purim form, please contact me. Your participation is appreciated and vital to the success of this project.

Sandy Levy – 718-356-8895

CHINESE DINNER

We had a very nice turnout for our Kosher Chinese Dinner on Friday, January 24th. The food was good and plentiful and many members practiced using chopsticks. Janice, Laurie and Susan made sure all orders were correct and there was enough food for seconds. It was so successful, that we may even have a follow up dinner in March.

IMAM TAHIR KUKAJ, GUEST SPEAKER

On Friday evening, January 24th, our congregation hosted Iman Tahir Kukaj as our guest speaker. Imam Kukaj is the spiritual leader of the Albanian Muslim Community Center on Staten Island. He has gained a reputation as a leader in interfaith relations. We learned firsthand that he is an eloquent and articulate speaker. The Imam's topic, the teachings of the Koran regarding Jews and Judaism, was most informative. He stressed that the Koran expresses positive teachings regarding Judaism, and that any attempt to turn the Koran into an anti-Semitic work is false.

The Imam responded to many questions from our congregants following his talk. All who came learned a lot about Islamic-Jewish relations. We

GUEST SPEAKER (Continued)

hope his positive and uplifting outlook becomes the rule and not the exception among our Muslim neighbors.

Rabbi Pinchas Pearl

MOVIE NIGHT

If you didn't attend the showing of the 1967 movie "The Producers" on Saturday night, January 25th, you missed out on a fun time. The movie brought back memories of another era with a young Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. There were many laughs throughout the movie. The refreshments included ice cream sundaes, chips, cookies, cake and fruit. All for only \$5.00! What a bargain!. Please consider joining us.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

We welcomed back Rita Eisenberg and were glad to see Sharon Pekuly. Happy to have them join us once again.

CASC will give a presentation on March 25th at 7:00 pm. It should be a very informative evening and all are welcome to attend.

NEED A LAUGH?

The Pope met with the College of Cardinals to discuss a proposal from Shimon Peres, the former leader of Israel. "Your holiness," said one of the Cardinals, "Mr. Peres wants to determine whether Jews or Catholics are superior by challenging you to a golf match. The Pope was greatly disturbed as he had never held a golf club in his life. "Not to worry," said the Cardinal, "we'll call America and talk to Jack Nicklaus. We'll make him a Cardinal, he can play Shimon Peres. We can't lose!" Everyone agreed it was a good idea. The call was made and, of course, Jack was honored and agreed to play. The day after the match, Nicklaus reported to the Vatican to inform the Pope of his success in the match. "I lost, your Holiness." Said Nicklaus. "You lost?" exclaimed the surprised Pope. "You lost to Shimon Peres?!!" "No", said Nicklaus, "second to Rabbi Tiger Woods."

Yahrzeit for February 2020

Yahrzeits begin on the evening before the given date. If you need to say kaddish for a yahrzeit, please call the office two weeks before and we will try to have a minyan. It would be helpful if you could have a few family or friends attend the services to make sure there is a minyan. For additions or corrections to this list, please contact Scott Diamond at 917-674-3317 or slzdiamond@hotmail.com

FEBRUARY	DAY	SHEVAT	Yahrzeit of	Relationship	Relative
01	Sat	06	Gussie Fingerman	Mother	Estelle Goldberg
01	Sat	06	Louis Goldberg	Father	Alice Frey
02	Sun	07	Aaron Davis	Father	Sandy Gosoff
02	Sun	07	Vivian Lynn	Wife	Sheldon Lynn
02	Sun	07	Shirlee Solomon	Mother	Adrienne Lowe
02	Sun	07	Louis Epstein	Grandfather	William Marin
03	Mon	08	Gussie Kalifowitz	Grandmother	Eileen Cooper
03	Mon	08	Rachil Reinish	Great Grandmother	Monique Datnova
04	Tues	09	Marcia Lader	Mother	Roger Lader
05	Wed	10	Aaron Feldman	Nephew	Ana Cramer
07	Fri	12	Abraham Friedman	Father-in-Law	Melvin Fox
07	Fri	12	John Gussow	Husband	Robin Gussow
10	Mon	15	Tema Gittle Gilden	Grandmother	Cheryl Guterman
11	Tues	16	Ida Goldberg	Mother-in-Law	Roger Lader
11	Tues	16	Murray Gelfand	Father	Gwen Gelfand Brownstein
13	Thurs	18	Paula Erdman	Aunt	Charles Geinsky
13	Thurs	18	Lillian Gelfand	Mother	Gwen Gelfand Brownstein
13	Thurs	18	Irving Boxer	Father	Francine Sklar
14	Fri	19	Solomon Stanley Dorfman	Father	Jodi Siegel
16	Sun	21	Beatrice Kullback	Mother	Maxine Spierer
16	Sun	21	Beatrice Kullback	Mother	Yolanda Zinn
16	Sun	21	Donald Bloomberg	Father	Sharon Ross
16	Sun	21	Helen Lader	Wife	Roger Lader
17	Mon	22	Luba Reinesh	Great Aunt	Monique Datnova
18	Tues	23	Dora Jacobson	Mother	Bernard Jacobson
18	Tues	23	Etta Brownstein	Grandmother	Cheryl Guterman
19	Wed	24	Mollie Levine	Mother	David Levine
22	Fri	27	Michael Lebebinsky	Father	Galina Dvorkina
23	Sat	28	Abraham Vatmachter	Father	Ella Ligay
24	Sun	29	Ida Norensky	Aunt	Aviva Levine
24	Sun	29	George Sklar	Father	Ira Sklar
		ADAR			
26	Tues	01	Harry Kroll	Uncle	Naomi Kirsch
28	Thurs	03	Phyllis Flashner	Mother	Alan Flashner
28	Thurs	03	Dora Armband	Mother	Ronald Armband
29	Fri	04	Sidney Dunn	Father	Arnold Dunn

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