

THE SHOFAR

JUNE 2020 (Published Monthly)

Congregation B'nai Israel:

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

Fifty days pass quickly, especially if one counts them individually. It seems that it was just yesterday that we were preparing ourselves to sit down at the Pesach seder table and here is Shavuot looming shortly. Though the holiday has a number of other names associated with it – the Festival of Bikurim/First Fruits, the festival of the granting of the Torah – the proper name assigned to it is Shavuot – the Festival of Weeks. The emphasis that the name gives us is that of the passage and counting of time. In its description of the festival itself, the Torah repeats a number of times this passage of weeks from the holiday of Pesach to the celebration of the holiday of Shavuot. It is apparent that this passage of time is deemed to be an important part of the significance of the holiday itself.

In the Talmud, as well as in the Bible itself, the holiday of Shavuot is referred to as being atzeret - an adjunct and bookend, so to speak, to Pesach. Somehow it completes the process of redemption of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage. It illustrates for us the purpose of that redemption and the true goal that freedom points us to in our personal and national lives. It is as though the revelation at Sinai and the granting of the Torah is the strategic goal of the entire story of the Jewish people in Egypt while the actual Exodus from Egypt is the necessary tactic to allow this strategic goal to be attained. Only by connecting Shavuot to Pesach with this seven-week counting does this message become clear and cogent to us.

Shavuot comes to reinforce our belief in the primacy of Torah study and observance in our life, both as an individual and as a nation. Rav Saadyah Gaon's famous statement that "Our nation is a nation only by virtue of our Torah" has been proven true by the millennia of Jewish history and its events. Those who forsook any connection

with Torah, they and/or their descendants eventually fell away from the Jewish people. It is the Torah and the revelation at Sinai that binds all of Israel together – Ashkenazi and Sephardi, Yemenite and Lithuanian, black and white and in all shades in between, politically liberal and conservative and old and young.

It is the Torah that crosses all lines and groupings within Israel. This is the idea that the Torah itself expresses that at Sinai we were all "of one heart and one being." Shavuot is therefore the holiday of Jewish unity, of the acceptance of our individual differences within the framework of the goal of becoming a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. There was a seven-week process that led from the slavery of Egypt to the glory of Sinai. We are always in the midst of a process of rebuilding the Jewish people, strengthening the Jewish state, and revitalizing the actual Land of Israel. This process takes time and will not be accomplished in only seven weeks. But the example of the seven-week wait for Shavuot should stand us in good stead.

We are all a work in progress, Jews constantly growing and developing. That process takes time and study. Let this Shavuot, in a time of testing and trouble for the entire world, remind us that our growth as Jews is never done. We receive and renew the Torah every day. May you be blessed to be part of this renewal, even in this frightening and challenging time. Chag Sameach!

OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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Financial Secretary	Susan Finkelstein
Recording Secretary	Barbara Smith
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FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

6/05 - 8:06 pm - Sivan 13

6/12 - 8:10 pm - Sivan 20

6/19 - 8:13 pm - Sivan 27

6/26 - 8:13 pm - Tammuz 4

Due to the ongoing coronavirus and the need for “social distance”, live services and gatherings for classes are not advisable. Until such time when we can join together as a community, Rabbi Pearl will be scheduling the following via Zoom:

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES - 6:00 PM

SATURDAY HAVDALAH SERVICES - TBA

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION - 10:00 AM

You will receive an email from Susan with the links and login information prior to the events.

Until we can resume our normal activities, please be sure to check your email and join our “virtual” congregation. Stay Safe!

MENS' ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

We've had our first Zoom meeting for the men of CBI. It was well-received with several participants. The discussions were interesting and lively. We look forward to continuing these meetings with more participants. The discussions can cover anything from sports to finance to any other subject you might find interesting. Please give us a try. Contact Marty Eisenberg at 718-948-4231 for information and to get meeting dates, times and log in information.

CAN YOU MAKE A MATCH?????

(Thank you Shelly Lynn)

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Gorgle | A. Noodles |
| 2. Fleegle | B. Soup nuts |
| 3. Mondlech | C. Groats |
| 4. Pulkes | D. Neck |
| 5. Lokshen | E. Thigh |
| 6. Kasha | F. Wing |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

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Frieda Goldklang

Harris & Diane Schwartz

Francine & Ira Sklar

Doris Wasser

Valerie Levy

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Valerie Levy

CONTRIBUTIONS

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



1-D 2-F 3-B 4-E 5-A 6-C

Our 2020 UJA Honoree – Barbara Smith

Each year the UJA honors individuals from the Staten Island community who have given of themselves unselfishly. This year C.B.I.'s honoree is Barbara Smith. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the actual breakfast and recognition of all the honorees at that event will not take place.

Barbara's involvement with CBI started when her children were growing up. She was the editor of the Shofar then, and as history sometimes repeats itself, she is the Shofar editor once again. She is a valued member of Sisterhood, where she doesn't hesitate to help wherever needed. Barbara's classes in card-making have been very well received. She has donated all materials as well as her expertise, which led to successful events. As a member of the Board of Trustees, she is also recording secretary.

Barbara is also very involved with Hadassah, where she is recording secretary as well. She is the membership chairperson and sends out meeting and event notices. She also organized an open house to solicit new members.

Very simply, whatever position or task Barbara volunteers to do, she gives it 100 Percent.

CONGRATULATIONS BARBARA!!

If you would like to make a gift to UJA-Federation of NY by mail, please mail your check to the following address and in the memo area on your check, in tribute to Barbara Smith or call them at 212-836-1486 to make a donation over the phone.

UJA-Federation of NY
P.O. Box 4227
New York, NY 10261-4227

OR

If you would like to make a donation to Congregation B'nai Israel by mail, please please mail your check to the following address, or call 718-9878188 to make a donation over the phone.

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306

Thank you,

CBI

Yahrzeits for June 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 members 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

June	Day	Sivan	Yahrzeit Of	Relationship	Relative
1	Mon	9	Arthur Levy	Husband	Sandy Levy
1	Mon	9	Arthur Levy	Father	Michelle Brosnick
1	Mon	9	Arthur Levy	Father	Jackie Spiegel
5	Fri	13	Sylvia Friedman	Mother-In-Law	Mel Fox
6	Sat	14	Irina Ferencik	Mother	Dagmar Katz
6	Sat	14	Alexander Shoikhetbrod	Husband	Gretta Kovler
7	Sun	15	Sarah Goldstein	Mother	Stuart Goldstein
7	Sun	15	Sam Khalfin	Father	Marat Khalfin
8	Mon	16	Anna Ganzman	Mother	Joel Ganzman
8	Mon	16	Sidney Smith	Father	Norman Smith
11	Thurs	19	Marvin Armband	Brother	Ronald Armband
13	Sat	21	Joseph Abramowitz	Father	Bernie Abramowitz
13	Sat	21	Joseph Grossman	Father	Karen Saks
13	Sat	21	Allen Perner	Relative	Shelly Harwayne
13	Sat	21	Raisa Krasner	Sister	Klavdiya Boginsky
15	Mon	23	Anna Wolf	Grandmother	Naomi Kirsch
16	Tues	24	Raisa Vernovskaya	Mother-In-Law	Barry Miltz
18	Thurs	26	Leonard Brosnick	Husband	Lillian Brosnick
18	Thurs	26	Leonard Brosnick	Father	Kevin Brosnick
19	Fri	27	Lucille Rosenbach	Mother	Janet Rocco
22	Mon	30	Gertrude Gordon	Mother	Gary Gordon
		Tammuz			
23	Tues	1	Gertrude Berger	Mother	Dr. Sandy Berger
24	Wed	2	Evelyn Gruschka	Mother-In-Law	Norman Smith
24	Wed	2	Jennie Poris	Mother	Steven Poris
25	Thurs	3	Charles Landwehr	Father	Eleanor Dovdavany
25	Thurs	3	Mendel Mayzlin	Husband	Mira Mayzlin
28	Sun	6	Hyman Hoffnung	Grandfather	Diane Schwartz
28	Sun	6	Benjamin Kalifowitz	Grandfather	Eileen Cooper
29	Mon	7	Joseph Levine	Father	Norman Levine
30	Tues	8	Miriam Cooper	Mother	Marvin Cooper

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