

THE SHOFAR

August 2020 (Published Monthly)

Congregation B'nai Israel:

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

The outstanding event on the Jewish calendar for the month of August is Rosh Chodesh Elul, which takes place on August 20th. Elul is the Hebrew month preceding Rosh Hashanah. Its Hebrew letters are interpreted to represent an acronym: Ani LeDodi veDodi Li, I am my beloved and my beloved is mine, denoting the relationship between the Jewish people and G-d. It is a fearful thing to contemplate that in a month we will stand in judgment before G-d, and that our lives and well-being will be determined for the year that comes. But the letters of the name for the month preceding this judgment remind us that G-d loves us, and that He will judge us with love, forgiving sin and allowing us the opportunity to do better in the new year to come.

Who among us, last Rosh Hashanah, imagined the year that we have experienced? Who could possibly have anticipated the virus that has turned our nation, our economy, all our lives upside down? Between the havoc and fear that COVID 19 has brought into our lives, and the social unrest that has convulsed the United States due to racial injustice, our year has been a time of trial and testing. G-d brings these times to see if we can endure, absorb lessons for our improvement, and use our experiences, painful though they have been, to make our lives and world better.

Elul is a time of preparation for that judgment. We must now think about all that has happened and ask ourselves, "What have I learned? How can I be a better person? Has the time spent at home and in isolation given me time to think, to use my time wisely, to

become a better person?". If we can find the positive here, resolve to use this experience to help others and manage our own time better, it will not be a lost year, a year that was wasted in fear. The year that has passed can be a year of great growth, and the foundation for a better tomorrow.

I have faith this terrible virus will be brought under control, and that we will be able to live again without fear. I have faith that G-d had a reason for all this, and believe that all of us can learn from this year to be better people and better Jews. As we begin to prepare for the New Year, let us learn from the year that has passed, and apply those lessons. I am G-d's beloved, the month of Elul tells us. Let us embrace and reciprocate that love, by loving and helping others, and by being faithful in our love of Torah. In the merit of those choices, may we be blessed with a year of health, life, and happiness.

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FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

8/07 - 7:46 pm - Av 17

8/14 - 7:37 pm - Av 24

8/21 - 7:27 pm - Elul 1

8/28 - 7:16 pm - Elul 8

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!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Ira Elias
Marilyn and Stuart Goldstein
Gary Gordon
Sandra and Stephen Poris
Judy and Ted Schneider

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Sandy & Rhoda Berger	Gertrude Berger
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Marty & Rita Eisenberg	Rabbi Pearl
Diane & Harris Schwartz	Rabbi Pearl

NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

Since the pandemic began, our sisterhood has been meeting every Sunday morning at 11:00 via Zoom. This get-together has grown in participation over time and we have come to call it our “sisterhood chat.” Last week, fourteen women joined us.

We talk about a variety of topics. During our “chat” last week two new ideas were mentioned and received with a good show of support. One was a book club. There were quite a few people interested. Diane Schwartz recommended the book “House on Endless Waters” by Emuna Elon. As one who just read the first several chapters, I can honestly say that I found it hard to put down. Captivating!

The second idea was meeting at one of the parks for an in-person, socially distant, mask-wearing, bring your lunch, get together. We did this on Wednesday, July 15, at Wolf’s Pond Park. We were very glad to actually be together once again and we had a very enjoyable, relaxing time under a huge shade tree. Eight women participated, and we took a nice walk along one of the paths with the ocean down below. The weather was wonderful. We look forward to doing this again.

Be safe everyone and be well!

Sandy Levy

JUST FOR FUN

An Orthodox Rabbi dies and goes to heaven. As he's approaching the gates, he hears a band of singing and dancing angels approach, and begins to get excited. The lead angel approaches the Rabbi and asks if he would mind stepping aside for a moment. Shocked, the Rabbi does so. The angels march out of the gates and encircle a man who has also approached the gates. The man is an Egged bus driver [Egged, pronounced like egg-head without the h, is the Israeli tour bus company.] The joyous parade of angels carry the bus driver in ahead of the Rabbi. When the parade is gone, an angel returns to the Rabbi and says, "You can come in now." The angel begins to lead the Rabbi inside alone. The Rabbi, somewhat confused, says, "I'm not one to make waves or anything, but I need to know something. I think I've been a good Rabbi. I've worked hard all my life. Why is it that the Egged bus driver gets led in by a band of angels ahead of me?" The angel says, "Well, frankly, Rabbi, whenever you preached, people slept. But whenever he drove, people prayed."

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/ethnicjokes/jewishjokes/eggedbusdriverjokes.html>



Dear Congregants and Friends,

We are planning for our reopening as the pandemic in New York slows down. We are looking forward to seeing you all again with social distancing and face masks. To accomplish this, we will need your help and cooperation.

We are planning to resume **Shabbat services Friday evening August 28, 2020 and Saturday morning Saturday August 29, 2020**. We are asking people to wear face masks and use their same siddur at all services, while maintaining their social distancing.

As we prepare for the High Holidays, we realize that we will have to limit the number of people attending each part of the services. To accommodate the maximum legal number of attendees, we will be selling tickets to the services, and giving preference to ticket-holders. We will have several scheduled Yizkor services.

As more regulations are released by the government, we will be able to give you up to date information.

Please return the bottom portion of this letter to the synagogue to let us know your intentions.

Thank you for your past support and hope that you and your family are in good health.

Sincerely,

Marty Eisenberg, Chairman
Board of Trustees

SELECT ONE and return to the synagogue as soon as possible:

() **I DO plan** to attend High Holiday services at Congregation B'nai Israel this year.

() **I DO NOT plan** to attend High Holiday services at Congregation B'nai Israel this year.

Name _____

Phone _____

Yahrzeits FOR Aug 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

Aug	Day	Av	Yahrzeit Of	Relationship	Relative
1	Sat	11 Av	Paul White	Brother	Sandy Poris
3	Mon	13 Av	Nachum Gitelman	Father	Mikhail Gitelman
5	Wed	15 Av	Harry Zuniss	Father	Judy Rosen
7	Fri	17 Av	Nathan Berg	Father	Barbara Smith
8	Sat	18 Av	Sarah Greinsky	Grandmother	Charles Greinsky
9	Sun	19 Av	Hannah Kroll	Grandmother	Naomi Kirsch
9	Sun	19 Av	Robert Davidson	Father	Linda Fisch
11	Tues	21 Av	Theodore Appelbaum	Brother	Arlene Gerstman
12	Wed	22 Av	Laura Koser	Friend	Laurie & David Raps
12	Wed	22 Av	Max Gordon	Father	Gary Gordon
14	Fri	24 Av	Natalie Fox	Wife	Mel Fox
17	Mon	27 Av	Lenore Hartman	Sister	Norman Levine
20	Thurs	30 Av	Lillian Gerstenfeld	Mother	Dr. Jack Gerstenfeld
		Elul			
21	Fri	1 Elul	Louis Raps	Father	David Raps
21	Fri	1 Elul	Aaron Kastell	Father	Walter Kastell
24	Mon	4 Elul	Helen Hoffnung	Grandmother	Diane Schwartz
25	Tues	5 Elul	Sam Hauser	Father	Jerry Hauser
26	Wed	6 Elul	Burton Sanders	Brother	Gene Sapolsky
27	Thurs	7 Elul	Shlomo Klainmenc	Father	Betty Jensen
29	Sat	9 Elul	Nathan Preiser	Father	Gloria Hirsch
29	Sat	9 Elul	Harry Braunstein	Father	Janice Rappaport
30	Sun	10 Elul	Bernard Greenglass	Father	Sharon Pekuly
30	Sun	10 Elul	Abraham Kroll	Uncle	Naomi Kirsch
30	Sun	10 Elul	Leon Kullback	Father	Maxine Spierer
30	Sun	10 Elul	Leon Kullback	Father	Yolanda Zinn
31	Mon	11 Elul	Leonard Kastell	Brother	Walter Kastell

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