

THE SHOFAR

JANUARY

2022

Congregation B'nai Israel:

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

Sunday night, January 16 and Monday January 17th, mark Tu B'Shvat, a cheerful day on the winter calendar. This holiday is commonly referred to as "New Year's Day for Trees". On it, the age of a fruit bearing tree is calculated, with ramifications for the consumption of fruit grown in the land of Israel. It is customary to eat a "new fruit", one that has not been consumed yet this year, in order to make the blessing "Shehecheyanu" thanking G-d for sustaining us and allowing us to reach this happy occasion. Dried carob fruit, bokser, has become commonly associated with the holiday, although no dentist will recommend eating it.

What I have always found uplifting about Tu B'Shvat is the message of life sustained amidst cold and ice. Trees endure amidst the cold temperatures, ice and snow of winter. Sap continues to flow under the bark. Life is there, even when all seems dead and frozen. No matter how barren the winter landscape may seem, renewal and regeneration await.

It seems that every day a new variant of the COVID virus that has turned our world upside down emerges. We race to get additional vaccines, and then are thrown into doubt as to whether they will work. We remove those annoying masks, only to have new mandates imposed that try our patience and endurance. When will it all end?

I have no definite answer. But the message of Tu B'Shvat is instructive and comforting. We don't always see what is going on, underneath the surface, hidden by the cold facts and icy news. But renewal awaits. Have faith these hard times will end, and a spring of health, safety and renewal awaits us all.

Happy Tu B'Shvat.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES - 8:00 PM
SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES - 9:30 AM

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FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

01/07	-	4:28 pm	-	Shevat 5
01/14	-	4:35 pm	-	Shevat 12
01/21	-	4:43 pm	-	Shevat 19
01/28	-	4:52 pm	-	Shevat 26

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2022 to all my fellow congregants and friends. Let's all hope this year will bring health and happiness and continued prosperity for all of us.

As the year progresses, we all hope that it will signal a return to more normalcy. I wish that we can gather together at the synagogue for prayer and fun functions. We had a successful Chanukah dinner and a fun post-Chanukah movie and party night. Those who attended had a great time. I want to thank Janice Rappaport and the crew that put those together. Thanks to Regina Perel and the Hebrew School children for the Chanukah entertainment. I also wanted to thank them and their parents for helping make the delicious latkes during Chanukah.

I look forward to seeing you all at our annual congregational meeting January 9, 2022 and at all our fun functions and at services.

Marty Eisenberg

NEWS FROM HEBREW SCHOOL

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER CHANUKKAH

Chanukkah is one of the most enjoyable Jewish holidays for kids and adults alike. This year's Chanukkah party at our Hebrew school proved to be a success. We enjoyed food. (Could there be a Jewish holiday without food?) music and, of course, a fun game of dreidel

Thanks to Mr. Marty Eisenberg, our honorable chef, the latkes with apple sauce were tasty and reasonably oily. Our students and their siblings participated in all stages of preparation and consuming the pancakes. Only frying was our chef's exclusive privilege.

Rabbi Pearl helped the children to recount the Chanukkah story. We sang the holiday songs in Hebrew, Ladino and English. Even some gambling was going on. The parents didn't mind since our kids gambled with chocolate *gelt*.

Our children also got small presents and we hope they will remember the warmth of this great holiday till the next Chanukkah.

Regina Perel

NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood met at the synagogue and via Zoom on Wednesday, December 15. However, due to the winter weather arriving, we decided that for the months of January and February we would go back to using Zoom for our meetings. This was voted on and approved by our attendees.

We will be having our book club meeting after our regular meeting on December 30. Our regular meeting will be starting at 7:30. It will be followed by a discussion of our latest book selection, *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristen Harmel. This selection was recommended in the current *Hadassah* magazine. Our next selection will be a book by Faye Kellerman titled, "The Lost Boys". This will be the first time we will be discussing one of the Decker- Lazarus mysteries, a well-known series.

I would like to thank the members who have volunteered help with the weekend shopping for the oneg and kiddush on Friday and Saturday respectively. We have some volunteers from the men's club as well which we sure appreciate. The shoppers for the following weeks are Judy Weisberg, Sandy Levy, Janice Rappaport, Bette Goldstein, Laurie & David Raps, Shelly Lynn and Rita & Marty Eisenberg.

Our meetings will also be held twice a month rather than once a month via Zoom. We would love to have you join us. You might find that you like it.

Stay well and safe during these trying times.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Sandy Levy

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Sophia & Al Cohen Roman Rapoport & Sam Rapoport
Stuart & Marilyn GoldsteinMort Goldstein
Joel & Gladys Graham Roselle Graham
Gloria HirschWilliam Hirsch
Barry & Gail KashuboIsadore Kashubo
Otto & Dagmar KatzHelen Katz
Naomi & Larry KirschMildred Lanser
Norman LevineLenore Levine
Sandy LevyJack Springer
Lillian Phillips Emanuel Goldklang
Diane & Harris SchwartzAaron & Florence Herzekow
Ira & Francine SklarElliot Sklar
Judy WeisbergTeddy Silverman

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING A KIDDUSH

Rita & Jerry Hauser
Regina & Sam Perel
Janice Rappaport
Laurie & David Raps
Judy Weisberg & Diane Schwartz

GENERAL DONATIONS

Vlad Cohen
Slava Gelfand
Sam and Regina Perel
David Schragar
Jack and Masha Tabak



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!**

Yahrzeits FOR Jan 2022

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

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