

THE SHOFAR

March 2025



Congregation B'nai Israel

45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306
Tel: 718-987-8188
Fax: 718-987-7870
Email: Office@sicbi.com
Website: sicbi.org
cbiacademypreschool@gmail.com
Facebook: Congregation B'nai Israel, NY

Rabbi Pinchas Pearl

Tel: 718-564-5518
Email: Lamdan453@gmail.com

Preschool & UPK

Tel: 718-987-6200
Email:



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Marty Eisenberg
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Come Join Us!

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM
SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM

“Pearls of Wisdom”



Our Rabbi writes....

This Purim, celebration might not feel totally appropriate. It seems that we are living with unprecedented and unchecked hatred. Whether it is the precarious fate of the Gaza hostages, the unending attacks on Jews on our city streets, or the rise of political movements in Europe that harken back to the days of the Nazis, we feel terribly insecure, and more than a little frightened. What are we to make of Purim at a time when the “feasting and joy” prescribed in the Megillah feels like the last thing on our minds? But, this is precisely the paradox of the Purim story. In the shadow of a genocidal decree, at what was the most precarious time for our nation since we were slaves in Egypt – with the help of Hashem, we survived. Relief might have been the logical response. Inhibition and trepidation might have been expected. But instead – we rejoiced. Throughout the generations, each time our existence was threatened, we responded by celebrating the glory of life. It is what has helped to sustain us through the horrors of millennia gone by.

There is a recording you can find on the Internet of the first Friday night service held in Germany, shortly after the surrender of the Nazis. It was a service held at the Bergen Belsen concentration camp, and was the first open Jewish prayer service on German soil in years. The survivors, gathered to welcome their first Shabbos of freedom, insisted on singing HaTikvah before they began the traditional prayers. They told their liberators that it was a time to pray and rejoice, and this was how they would do it.

So, this Purim, let us gather in defiance of those who would have us cowering behind closed doors. Let us show the world how we respond when everything that we hold dear is attacked. On Purim, we declare our determination to move, “from sorrow to gladness and from mourning to holiday” and to help shape a better future for mankind.

Purim sameach!”

If you're missing Rabbi Pearl's weekly Friday night sermon, you're missing (1) his opening joke; (2) his discussion of how the week's Torah reading is relevant to our lives today; (3) his inspirational blessing; and (4) our lively discussions & delicious treats at the Oneg. Services are one hour; congregation participation is welcome & rewarding.

Friday Night Candle Lighting

Mar 7th at 5:37 pm
Mar 14th at 6:45 pm
Mar 21st at 6:52 pm
Mar 28th at 6:59 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Kevin Brosnick



I am honored and humbled to serve as the new president of Congregation B'nai Israel. It is with great excitement that I step into this role and look forward to working together with our Board of Directors, Rabbi Pearl and the entire congregation to continue strengthening our beautiful shul.

As a long-time member, I've seen our shul become a home where we come together to celebrate and share our traditions. It has always been a place of connection, learning and spirituality and I am confident we can continue to build upon our rich history while embracing new opportunities to grow and enhance our communal experience.

Over the coming months, we have many wonderful opportunities for everyone to participate and connect with CBI- whether it's attending Shabbat Across America, Purim celebrations, our traditional Passover Seder, shabbat services or our 90th Anniversary event. We also have wonderful committees and classes to join: Sisterhood, Men's Club and the Rabbi's Adult Education class.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas for activities or programs you'd like to see at CBI. Your voice and participation are what make CBI so special, and together, we can continue to create a warm and welcoming Jewish home for all.

Thank you for your trust and support. I look forward to seeing you and your families at shul.

With warmest regards,
Kevin Brosnick

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

Sandy Levy
President

With the last few days of February upon us, we have been busy preparing the Shalach Manot for the festival of Purim. Actually, we've been working on this project before the beginning of February when the letters went out to our congregation.

To all who have generously responded, we sincerely thank you. There is still a lot to be done during the coming two weeks. Donations of individually wrapped snacks are coming in now. If you wish to donate, please call Laurie and let her know. If you are able to help deliver the packages, please let Susan know. The Shalach Manot will be delivered during the day of Friday, March 14, Purim. We appreciate all the assistance we can get. This effort is one of our most important fundraisers and we depend on its success to help meet the needs of our congregation. A list of all the people who helped put this all together will appear in next month's Shofar.

Wishing you and yours a Chag Sameach!! Happy Purim!!



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Mondays at 8:00pm

Hebrew Lessons, Part II

Join Rabbi Pearl via Zoom. Link sent by Susan from CBI Office.

Friday, March 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Shabbat Across America Dinner

@ B'nai Israel

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Congregation 2nd Night Pesach Seder

@ B'nai Israel

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Wagner College Theatre: "Rent"

\$32 per person. Contact Laurie or Susan.

**Sunday, April 27, 2025
Congregation B'nai Israel's
90th Anniversary Luncheon**

**Honoring
Our Hebrew School Graduates Through the
Years**

News Around the Shul...

Rabbi Pearl was invited to join the newly established Staten Island Fellowship Against Hate. Among the sponsors are JCC, COJO and the Jewish Community Relations Council. Here is a photo, taken at its inaugural session, of Rabbi Pearl with other esteemed members of this important community effort. See if you can spot Orit Lender (CEO of the JCC), Ryan Crimmins (Community Liaison at the Richmond County District Attorney's Office & a past speaker at our synagogue) and Carol Bullock (Executive Director of the SI Pride Center).



Celebrating Special Occasions



David & Laurie Raps will be celebrating their 48th wedding anniversary on March 13th.

Congratulations!

Many Thanks for Your Generous Donation

Phyllis Blagman to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Kevin and Michelle Brosnick to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Patricia Anne Taylor Carsel to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Catherine and William Fani to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Susan and Richard Finkelstein to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Rita Hauser in memory of Larry Zinn and the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Ruth and Myron Lasser to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Men's Club to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Dr. Brian Meyerberg to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
John and Doreen Minogue to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
Janice Rappaport to the Larry Zinn Landscape Fund
Laurie and David Raps to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund
The Bloom family in memory of Neal Rappaport
Marilyn Goldstein in memory of Neal Rappaport
Diane and Louis Serrapica in memory of Neal Rappaport
Harris Schwartz in memory of Neal Rappaport and Larry Zinn
Charlie and Ilene Greinsky in memory of Ira Greinsky, Irvin Erdman, Paula Erdman, Neal Rappaport & Larry Zinn
Lilya and Vlad Cohen
Eileen and Bernie Cooper in memory of Gussie Kalifowitz
Ana Cramer in memory of Aaron Feldman
Alice and Steve Frey in memory of Louis S. Goldberg
Joel and Gladys Graham in memory of Arnold Graham
Ella Ligay in memory of Mendel Vatmakhter and Zinaida Fridman
Scott and Bonnie Rosner in memory of Herbert Rosner
Harris Schwartz for his sponsorship of three kiddushes



Yahrzeits for March 2025

Hebrew Date/ Calendar Date	Yahrzeit of	Member	Relationship
4 Adar Mar 4	Sidney Dunn	Arnold Dunn	Father
5 Adar Mar 5	Benjamin Fox	Melvin Fox	Father
9 Adar Mar 9	Alexander Gerstman	Aaron Gerstman	Father
10 Adar Mar 10	Lawrence Pearlberg	Andrea Weiser	Father
10 Adar Mar 10	Leonard White	Sandy Poris	Father
11 Adar Mar 11	Lillian Silverman	Beth Garfinkel	Mother
12 Adar Mar 12	Mary Surpin	Joel Cohen	Mother-in-Law
15 Adar Mar 15	Doris Marin	William Marin	Grandmother
15 Adar Mar 15	Norma Berman	Marty Eisenberg	Mother
17 Adar Mar 17	Miriam Rosenblatt	Aviva Levine	Aunt
18 Adar Mar 18	Sylvia Applebaum	Arlene Gerstman	Mother
20 Adar Mar 20	Dor Hirsch	William Hirsch	Mother
21 Adar Mar 21	Irvin Erdman	Charles Greinsky	Grandfather
23 Adar Mar 23	Abraham Cooper	Marvin Cooper	Father
26 Adar Mar 26	Gittel Kalinminc	Dr Betty Jensen	Mother
28 Adar Mar 28	Irene Goldberg	Alice Frey	Mother
28 Adar Mar 28	Joseph Cohen	Al Cohen	Brother
29 Adar Mar 29	Shirley Berman	Anita Gordon	Sister
30 Adar Mar 30	Harry Levy	Sandy Levy	Father-in-Law
30 Adar Mar 30	Fraida bat Pinchas	Miron Berenshteyn	Mother

*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 assemble a Minyan, most often via Zoom. It would be helpful if you had a few family members or friends attend the services to ensure there is a Minyan. For additions or corrections to this list, please contact Laurie Raps at 718-967-4975 or spar1012@aim.com.

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