

# THE SHOFAR

May 2026



## Congregation B'nai Israel

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## OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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Yolanda Zinn  
Lillian Brosnick

Come Join Us!

**FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM**

**SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM**

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## “Pearls of Wisdom”



### **Our Rabbi writes....**

May is distinguished by the holiday of Shavuos, which will begin Thursday night, May 21st. The holiday is linked to Passover through the counting of the Omer, which began the second night of Passover, and concludes the night before Shavuos. The counting teaches us that freedom and Torah, the freedom to choose and the knowledge and insight to make the right choices, are linked by tradition and wisdom.

Two verbs are used in our prayers to describe the event that Shavuos celebrates, namely the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai by G-d to the entire Jewish people, both those physically present and those spiritually in attendance at this momentous event. One verb is “Natan” give, signifying that the Torah was given to the Jewish people. But a second verb frequently used is “Kabbalat” receiving, signifying that the Jewish people accepted the Torah as well. Why both?

All knowledge can be given. Ask any teacher, and they will tell you that they can stand in front of a classroom and give over knowledge. But that is not by itself successful teaching. There must be a kabbalah, an acceptance. The student must be willing and able to accept the knowledge being offered. The experience of standing before a class and being ignored is a dismal and depressing one, unfortunately shared by all too many teachers.

For there to be acceptance, we must work on ourselves. Our attitude must be one of curiosity and conviction that the knowledge being offered is worthwhile. On Shavuos, we are given the Torah. But do we accept and receive it? It's up to us. Believe that the knowledge and observance of Torah can transform your life, and you will accept it with a full and willing heart.

Come and enjoy the cheesecake and the blintzes. But leave with the acceptance of the greatest gift offered to the Jewish people, at Mt. Sinai, and today.

Gut Yontiff.

\*\*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**  
**May 1 at 7:33 pm**  
**May 8 at 7:40 pm**  
**May 15 at 7:47 pm**  
**May 22 at 7:54 pm**  
**May 29 at 7:59pm**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Kevin Brosnick**



Greetings. I hope this letter finds everyone doing well.

I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who helped with our community events over the past few months. We recently marked a significant milestone with the celebration of Rabbi Pearl's 10th anniversary. This event, along with our Passover Seder, required a great deal of coordination. I want to thank everyone who assisted with the planning, invitations, setup, the food preparation, and the cleanup for both of these occasions.

I also want to recognize those who consistently help with our weekly Shabbat shopping, along with our amazing Sisterhood. Your steady commitment ensures that our traditions continue without interruption. Additionally, thank you to the volunteers have assisted in securing our recent guest speakers, making sure our programs ran smoothly. It is the hard work of these individuals that allows our synagogue to function. As the warmer months approach, we hope more of you will attend services or join one of our activities.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our future gatherings.



## SISTERHOOD UPDATE

**Sandy Levy**

**President**

As the end of April is here we look forward to the warmer weather. Our winter quilts have gone to be cleaned and put away for now. The lighter quilts are on our beds or about to be put there. There is anticipation of easier living and more enjoyment of the outdoors, traveling, etc. However, with sisterhood we continue meeting and planning for the future.

Our book club discussion was postponed as Laurie was on vacation. We will continue discussing “The Book Club for Troublesome Women” and choosing a new selection. We are open for suggestions.

Thank you to Eileen Cooper for taking the minutes at our last meeting. Also, thanks to the shoppers for the past month: Iris, Susan, Janice, Eileen, and Michelle Brosnick. Also, thanks to Harris Schwartz for sponsoring a kiddush.

We talked about possibly having a honey fundraiser before Rosh Hashonah to welcome the New Year. We are working on getting further information.

Here’s to an enjoyable spring. Stay well, have fun and continue to support CBI and Sisterhood. You’re always welcome here.

Next meeting will be on **May 6, 2026.**





## **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Sisterhood Meeting  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Documentary Film, “Names, Not Numbers”  
Featuring CBI Member Sonia Lam  
JCC, 1466 Manor Road  
Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 7pm

CBI Shavuot Dairy Dinner & Services  
Thursday, May 21, 2026 @ 7pm  
Cost \$18  
RSVP by May 14, 2026

Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 8pm

## **News Around the Shul...**

### **Holding Good Thoughts For:**

**Lillian Brosnick recuperating at Carmel Richmond, where she is accepting calls & visitors.**

**Sonia Lam & Rabbi Pearl & Harris Schwartz for a quick recovery**

## **Congratulations!**

**Dr Gary & Maxine Spierer on the Bat Mitzvah of granddaughter Lila Korn on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Lila is the daughter of Amber Spierer & Michael Korn and the grandniece of Yolanda Zinn.**



### **Celebrating Special Occasions**

**May 13: Janice Rappaport's Birthday**

**May 18: Susan & Rich Finkelstein's Anniversary**

**May 29: Marty Eisenberg's Birthday**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Celebrating Rabbi Pearl's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Spiritual Leader Brunch on March 22, 2026**



## Many Thanks for Your Generous Donations

**Ana Cramer**

**Joel Ganzman in memory of Abraham Ganzman**

**Ilene & Charlie Greinsky in memory of Elsie Krevoy**

**Gloria Hirsch in memory of Ben Hirsch**

**Herb Jaslow in memory of Sam Jaslow and Morris Edelman**

**Gennadiy Katsnelson & Irina Frenkel**

**Stephen & Sandra Poris in memory of Max Poris and Leonard White**

**Laurie & David Raps in memory of Scott Rappaport**

**Harris Schwartz for sponsoring a kiddush**

**Alina Tselniker**

### **Did you know...**

IRS ruling on donations for standard deduction filers: The IRS has announced significant changes to charitable giving rules starting in 2026, which will impact standard deduction filers. Non-itemizers: Individuals who take the standard deduction can now deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable cash donations to public charities. This applies to married couples filing jointly, allowing them to deduct up to \$2,000.



Yahrzeits FOR MAY 2025

Hebrew Date/ Calendar Date	Yahrzeit of	Member	Relationship
14 Iyar May 1	Frieda Goldklang	Lillian Phillips	Mother
14 Iyar May 1	Jacob Epstein	Rita Hauser	Father
15 Iyar May 2	Michael Perner	Shelly Harwayne	Father
18 Iyar May 5	Ben Cramer	Ana Cramer	Father-in-law
19 Iyar May 6	Valerie Levy	Harris Schwartz	Cousin
20 Iyar May 7	David Streger	Roberta Sapolsky	Father
20 Iyar May 7	Miriam Erdman	Charles Greinsky	Grandmother
27 Iyar May 14	Murray Haber	Marilyn Goldstein	Father
27 Iyar May 14	Seymour Fourman	Fourman Family	Grandfather
2 Sivan May 18	Jacob Greinsky	Charles Greinsky	Grandfather
3 Sivan May 19	Misha Czuteovsky	Monique Datnova	Great-grandfather
4 Sivan May 20	Alexander Ferencik	Dagmar Katz	Father
5 Sivan May 21	Edith Cohen	Al Cohen	Mother
5 Sivan May 21	Eli Katz	Otto Katz	Father
5 Sivan May 21	Lawrence Sandick	Ilene Greinsky	Father
6 Sivan May 22	Ada Landwehr	Eleanor Dovdavany	Mother
8 Sivan May 24	Lena Haber	Marilyn Goldstein	Mother
8 Sivan May 24	Phillip Fingerman	Estelle Goldberg	Father

Hebrew Date/ Calendar Date	Yahrzeit of	Member	Relationship
9 Sivan May 25	Arthur Levy	Sandy Levy Michelle Brosnick Jackie Spiegel	Husband Father Father
14 Sivan May 30	Irina Ferencik	Dagmar Katz	Mother
15 Sivan May 31	Sarah Goldstein	Marilyn Goldstein	Mother-in-law
15 Sivan May 31	Sam Khalfin	Marat Khalfin	Father

**\*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 have 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 [sparl1012@aim.com](mailto:sparl1012@aim.com).**



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