THE SHOFAR

November 2026

Congregation B'nai Israel
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Come Join Us!
FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM
SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM

"Pearls of Wisdom"



Our Rabbi writes….

When we open our daily prayers, we don't address a generic deity. Instead, we call upon the **"G-d of Abraham, G-d of Isaac, and G-d of Jacob."** This repetition begs an obvious question: why not simply say the "G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"? The Sages explain that the formula is repetitive because **each patriarch forged an entirely distinct relationship with G-d.** They were not carbon copies of one another; rather, they represented three entirely different spiritual paths, personalities, and core virtues (*middot*). Together, they formed the complete spiritual DNA of the Jewish people.

By looking at their distinct lives, we can find a blueprint for our own spiritual journeys. **Abraham** is the man of action. He journeys into the unknown, fights evil kings and pagan gods, and actively builds a community of faith and kindness. **Isaac** is the quiet strong man. He endures the Akeidah, the binding by his father and near death,

duplicates the digging of wells his father had dug, and shows the strength of commitment. **Jacob** is the man that struggles; with his brother Esav, his father-in-law Laban, with tumultuous, violent children. His life is difficult and filled with pain. Yet he never loses faith in the belief and promises of G-d. Three radically different approaches to a relationship with G-d.

The lesson for us is that there are many different paths to a spiritual life. People may believe and observe differently, in ways that make us uncomfortable and feel alien. But the great accomplishment of Jewish life in the 21st century is that there are so many different ways to arrive at the same place: faith and belief in G-d and Torah.

As we contemplate the lives of the Avos (Patriarchs) in these weeks, as we study the sections of the Torah that portray their lives and struggles, let us embrace the varied paths to faith and belief. In doing so, we can only enrich our spiritual lives and community.
When we pray to the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we remind ourselves that G-d meets us exactly where we are: in our passion, in our quiet discipline, and in our deepest struggles.

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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

Nov 6th at 4:29 pm
Nov 13th at 4:22 pm
Nov 20th at 4:17 pm
Nov 27th at 4:13 pm

OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

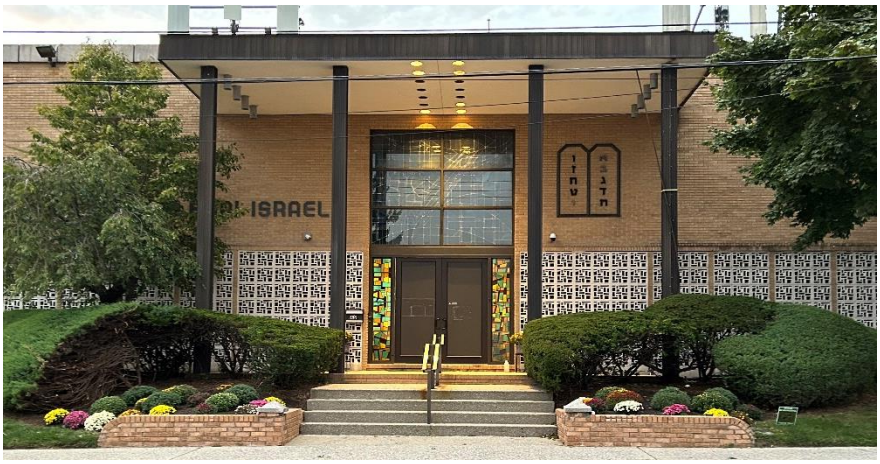
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Sisterhood President	Sandra Levy
Shofar Editor	Yolanda Zinn

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
KEVIN BROSNICK



Transitioning from the High Holidays and other Fall Holidays, we look forward to our sanctuary once again filled with celebrations. Speaking of our sanctuary and home, I am thrilled to share that we are making continued progress with our temple improvements. As you step into CBI over the next months, you might notice the fruits of this ongoing hard work. We are dedicated to ensuring that our physical space is warm, welcoming, and open. I encourage you to come see the shul and think about CBI for family occasions, *simchas* or community gatherings.



I want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to every single person who contributes to CBI. From our dedicated staff and board members to the volunteers who step up for committees, and every congregant who joins us for a service or event: *you* are the heartbeat of this synagogue. Thank you for your time, your passion, and your generosity. You are the reason CBI isn't just a building, but a true family and a deeply connected community.

I wish you all a peaceful, safe, and deeply relaxing Thanksgiving and look to welcoming you for Hanukkah celebrations. Refresh your spirits, enjoy the Fall foliage, and see you at Shul.

SISTERHOOD UPDATE
SANDY LEVY
President

The High Holidays are behind us. Hope everyone enjoyed lovely, meaningful Services at shul and with your families. I do know that the services at our shul were most meaningful, thanks to Rabbi Pearl and the Cantor. Now onward to new activities, fundraising and spending time together to always improve our synagogue.

Laurie Raps has been looking into shows for us at Wagner College. We plan on seeing the musical “Brigadoon” on Sunday, May 2, 2027 at 2:00. If you are interested, please call Laurie Raps. Call the shul to get her number if needed. Also,

Rita Hauser let us know that the show “Come From Away” will be at Wagner’s Studio One on Sunday, June 27, 2027. Again, please call the shul for more info.

There is still a few bottles of honey available. The honey was well received. As far as our book club goes, we are now reading “Elinor Oliphant.” It is an excellent story. Please join us. In a couple of weeks letters will be going out asking all members to take part in our annual Chanukah card project. Please have your name included with all of the others in wishing your fellow congregants and friends a joyous Chanukah. Your participation always means a lot to CBI’s success. Let’s try hard to exceed the number of names that we had last year. Chanukah is early this year, starting on the evening of December 4th.

It was so good to see so many members during the holidays. Our Sukkot Dinner was attended by 50 people. Thank you, Janice Rappoport, for coordinating the delicious food & arranging seating. We would like to see all of our members during the year ahead. Stay well and join us in keeping B’nai Israel a vital part of our community.

HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS



On Sunday, October 17, 2026, we welcomed our incoming Hebrew School class. Regina Perel, our esteemed teacher, looks forward to a productive and fun experience for all. School is held on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. For Hanukkah, our students always enjoy making (and eating) latkes with our past president Marty Eisenberg. This year, the event will be held on December 6th.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 @ 11 am
420 South Avenue, SI 10303
Memorial & Plaque Unveiling for Roman Blum
See attached flyer

Saturday, November 7, 2026 @ 7pm
@ The Synagogue
Movie & Ice Cream Social
"The Frisco Kid"

Thursday, November 26, 2027
Thanksgiving

Friday, December 4, 2026
First Night of Chanukah
Congregation Shabbat & Hanukkah Dinner
@ The Synagogue
Speaker from 122nd Precinct Council

Sunday, December 6, 2026
@ The Synagogue
Making Latkes with Marty Eisenberg

And in 2027… Broadway comes to Staten Island

Sunday, May 2, 2027
Brigadoon @ Wagner College Theatre
Contact Laurie Raps if interested

Sunday, June 27, 2027
Come From Away @ Studio One on Howard Avenue
Contact Rita Hauser if interested

CONGRATULATIONS



The bat mitzvah of Jemma Kirshinski, daughter of Inna and Vladimir Kushnirski , was celebrated at CBI on Sunday, October 11, with a special service led by Rabbi Pearl. Jemma did a spectacular recitation of her haftorah, and her parents gave moving speeches about their daughter. Mazel tov to a beautiful family.





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Irina & Scott Komito: children Gabriella, Ava, Jacob & Elizabeth

Igor & Oksana Bondarenko: children Eric, Katelyn & Grace

On October 20, 2026, Yolanda Zinn attended a meeting at the District Attorney's Office with Phylisa Wisdom, Director of the Mayor's Office to Combat Anti-Semitism.



CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 1st - Richie Finkelstein
November 9th – Marvin Cooper
November 27th – Rita Eisenberg
November 28th - Beth Marin

Please let our editor know your birthday (month & day are sufficient. We don't require the year unless you want to brag!). Also, send anniversaries or other milestone events. We love noting happy occasions. Information can be emailed to oceanview@si.rr.com.
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Many Thanks for Your Generous Donations

Ana Cramer in memory of Max Besen
Joel & Estelle Goldberg in memory of Samuel Goldberg
Gladys Graham in memory of Sala Ziegler
Rita Hauser for sponsoring an oneg & kiddush in memory of Jerry Hauser
David & Laurie Raps in memory of Mildred Raps

thank you!

YAHRZEITS for November 2026

Hebrew Date/ 2026 Date*	Yahrzeit of	Member	Relationship to Member
21 Cheshvan Nov 1	Yetta Sohn	Rita Eisenberg	Mother
27 Cheshvan Nov 7	Rebecca Herzekow	Harris Schwartz	Grandmother-in-law
2 Kislev Nov 12	Irene Schwartz	Harris Schwartz	Mother
2 Kislev Nov 12	Selma Rosenblum	Laurie Raps	Mother
11 Kislev Nov 21	Lena Braunstein	Janice Rappaport	Mother
12 Kislev Nov 22	Fay Frey	Steve Frey	Mother
12 Kislev Nov 22	Leo Ziegler	Gladys Graham	Father
13 Kislev Nov 23	Harold Hoff	Harris Schwartz	Uncle-in-law
18 Kislev Nov 28	Ruth Sandick	Ilene Greinsky	Mother
20 Kislev Nov 30	Bernard X. Cohen	Joel Ganzman	Father-in-law

*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.

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The clocks may have turned back, but we will be looking forward to seeing
you at our special events. Wishing you & your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

With warmest regards,
Yolanda

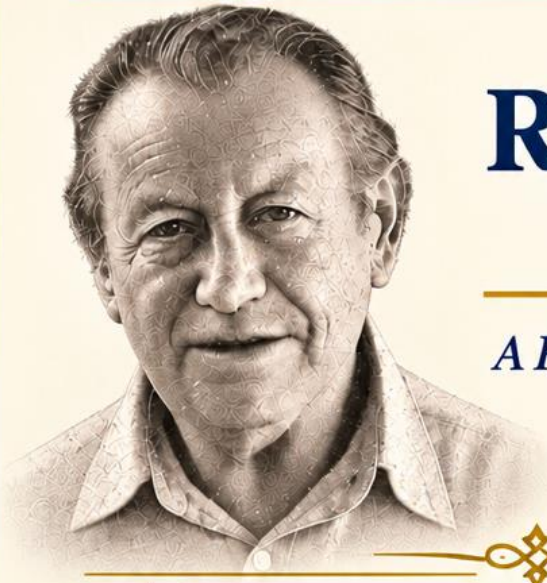


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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

11:00 AM EST

Roman Plaza
420 South Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10303

Together, we honor his legacy of courage, compassion and community.

Coffee hour to follow

Sponsored by Waldman Management and the Staten Island Holocaust Center

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