

THE SHOFAR

January 2021 (Published Monthly)

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

The month of January contains, on January 28th, the holiday of Tu B'Shvat, popularly called "New Year for the Trees". What does that mean?

On the Chabad website, we find the following explanation:

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar—celebrated this year on Thursday, January 28, 2021—is the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees. Commonly known as Tu Bishvat, this day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. We mark the 15th of Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" ([Deuteronomy 20:19](#)), and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analogue. As is the case with many Torah laws, the *halachah* is based on what happens in the Land of Israel. So, since most of Israel's rainy season is over by the 15th of Shevat, this date is considered the New Year for Trees. Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (Rashi) explains that at this point the ground has become saturated with the rains of the new year, causing the sap to start rising in the trees, which means that the fruit can begin to bud. The Jerusalem Talmud records an alternative explanation. Until the New Year for Trees, all trees can survive on the water from the previous year. After their New Year, the trees derive their life source from the water of the New Year.

So in the midst of winter, when trees and all other vegetation look dead, we recognize that appearances can be deceptive. Underneath the surface, the regeneration of life, which in the case of trees is the generation and rising of sap, is taking place. No matter

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK (Continued)

how bleak the day seems, life is reviving and gaining strength for the future.

In this time of COVID 19, when so much of our economic, political and social landscape seems bleak, when social distancing and quarantines have isolated us, when we all despair of life returning to "normal", the image of Tu B'Shvat is powerful for us. Under the surface in this year of virus and despair, hope, healing and renewal are rising. With the availability of life saving vaccines growing day by day, we can all look forward to the day when we can socialize, shop, pray and play with safety. Tu B'Shvat teaches us to hold on in the most difficult of times for, like the spring, they will end, and renewal and rebirth will come.

Stay safe and celebrate this beautiful day on our calendar.

OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

1/01 - 4:23 pm - Tevet 17

1/08 - 4:29 pm - Tevet 24

1/15 - 4:37 pm - Shevat 2

1/22 - 4:45 pm - Shevat 9

1/29 - 4:53 pm - Shevat 16

CBI MEMBER NEWS

We wish Masha and Jack Tabak the best of health and happiness in their new home in Israel and thank them for their many years of devoted service to CBI. They will be missed but not forgotten!

We welcome new members Leigh, Fred, Benjamin, and Anna Patterson to our CBI family.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Jerry Clifford	Gladys Clifford
Estelle & Arnold Dunn	Gail Siskind
Joel & Gladys Graham	Roselle Graham
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Eugene & Roberta Sapolsky
Ted & Judy Schneider
Jack & Masha Tabak
The Waitzman Family
The Yugrakh Family

CHANUKAH GREETINGS

The following CBI members also participated in our Chanukah card fundraiser and wished the CBI family a wonderful Chanukah holiday:

Iris & Shelly Cohen
Nancy & Joel Cohen
Ana Cramer
Gloria Hirsch

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As I write this piece it is the middle of Chanukah, the holiday that celebrates the miracles of long ago and the rededication of the Holy Temple. It is also during the COVID-19 pandemic where our contact with family and friends has been so limited. We miss this human contact and our usual routines that have been so disrupted.

Now that the long-awaited vaccines have been approved, I hope that it won't be too long before we can resume our normal activities, as well as rededicate ourselves to our shul: attend services, serve on bnai israel committees and encourage our friends to join us at the synagogue.

I look forward to 2021 with the hope that this pandemic will come to an end, we will be blessed with good health, a return to our normal activities and seeing you in synagogue.

Marty Eisenberg

SISTERHOOD NEWS

I hope everyone had a joyous Chanukah, even though it may not have been, due to Covid times.

Our Chanukah fundraiser was a success. Many thanks to all of the families who graciously participated in this new endeavor.

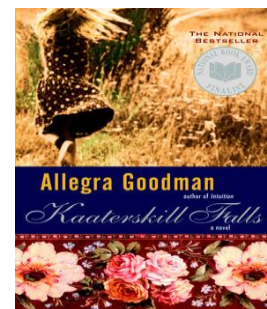
On December 14, we had our Book Club meeting. The selection was "The Storyteller," by Jodi Piccoult, a multigenerational story focusing on the Holocaust. Our moderator for the evening was Iris Cohen, who did a wonderful job with stimulating, well thought-out questions. Our next selection will be "Kaaterskill Falls" by Allegra Goodman

Our weekly chats on Sunday mornings continue to be well attended. We meet at 11:00 a.m. We try to stay informed quite the way you were accustomed to celebrating

about progress made during the pandemic. We share our concerns and feelings during these stressful times, as well as discuss various ways to help our synagogue. Ladies, give us a try.

Stay well, safe and strong.

Sandy Levy



NEWS FROM OUR HEBREW SCHOOL

Covid-19 couldn't prevent the children in our Hebrew school from enjoying the wonderful holiday of Chanukah. Three of us, Rabbi Pearl, Marty Eisenberg and I, planned a celebration so our students could experience the Festival of Lights.

On December 13, our students listened to the Chanukah story, learned to light the menorah, sang Chanukah songs, and played the dreidel game. The highlight of the event was making latkes. Thanks to Marty Eisenberg, everything went just perfectly, starting with putting on aprons and gloves, cutting potatoes and onions, making the batter, and eating tasty, crunchy latkes. Of course, the latkes had to be fried, and this task was performed by Marty with perfection. By the end, students were presented with four big batches of latkes. There was plenty to eat and take home and of course, we didn't forget about the blessing for latkes and juice.

The celebration ended the way any Chanukah should—with presents and Chanukah gelt. The adults were rewarded with the children's smiles.

Regina Perel

We can never be
"TU" grateful
for the beauty of NATURE!



Yahrzeits for January 2021

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

January	Day	Tevet	Yahrzeit Of	Relationship	Relative
1	Fri	17	Roman Rapoport	Brother	Sophia Cohen
3	Sun	19	Sid Wool	Uncle	Norman Olinsky
4	Mon	20	Florence Herzekow	Mother	Diane Schwartz
5	Tues	21	Emil Shrentsel	Father	Milla Abidor
6	Wed	22	Betty Bergman	Mother	Dr. Steven Goldstein
7	Thurs	23	Teddy Silverman	Brother	Judy Weisberg
7	Thurs	23	Isaac Reznova	Father	Rita Timmer
8	Fri	24	David Sapolsky	Father	Gene Sapolsky
8	Fri	24	Barbara Abraham	Sister	Shelly Harwayne
9	Sat	25	Aaron Herzekow	Grandfather	Diane Schwartz
10	Sun	26	Sam Rapoport	Father	Sophia Cohen
12	Tues	28	Rukhle Manket	Grandmother	Lenny Valdborg
		Shevat			
14	Thurs	1	Alex Orshansky	Father	Marcia Jacobson
14	Thurs	1	Rose Goldberg	Mother	Joel Goldberg
14	Thurs	1	Beverly Mayle	Wife	Harold Mayle
16	Sat	3	Arnold Graham	Father	Joel Graham
16	Sat	3	Rachel Dovdavany	Mother	Michael Dovdavany
16	Sat	3	Murray Dovdavany	Father	Michael Dovdavany
17	Sun	4	Herbert Rosner	Father	Scott Rosner
17	Sun	4	Evgeniy Manket	Grandfather	Lenny Valdborg
18	Mon	5	Ira Greinsky	Father	Charles Greinsky
18	Mon	5	Betty Kudler	Mother	Charles Kudler
18	Mon	5	Jack Lader	Father	Roger Lader
19	Tues	6	Gussie Fingerman	Mother	Estelle Goldberg
19	Tues	6	Louis Goldberg	Father	Alice Frey
20	Wed	7	Aaron Davis	Father	Sandy Gosoff
20	Wed	7	Vivian Lynn	Wife	Sheldon Lynn
20	Wed	7	Shirlee Solomon	Mother	Adrienne Lowe
20	Wed	7	Louis Epstein	Grandfather	William Marin
21	Thurs	8	Gussie Kalifowitz	Grandmother	Eileen Cooper
21	Thurs	8	Rachil Reinish	Great Grandmother	Monique Datnova
22	Fri	9	Marcia Lader	Mother	Roger Lader
23	Sat	10	Aaron Feldman	Nephew	Ana Cramer
25	Mon	12	Abraham Friedman	Father-In-Law	Melvin Fox
25	Mon	12	John Gussow	Husband	Robin Gussow
28	Thurs	15	Tema Gittle Gilden	Grandmother	Cheryl Guterman
29	Fri	16	Ida Goldberg	Mother-In-Law	Roger Lader
29	Fri	16	Murray Gelfand	Father	Gwen Gelfand Brownstein
31	Sun	18	Paula Erdman	Aunt	Charles Greinsky
31	Sun	18	Lillian Gelfand	Mother	Gwen Gelfand
31	Sun	18	Irving Boxer	Father	Francine Sklar
31	Sun	18	Anna Rapoport	Mother	Sophia Cohen

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