

THE SHOFAR

March 2021 (Published Monthly)

Congregation B'nai Israel:

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

The Meaning of Passover

In a year so eventful and tumultuous, it is with a sense of shock to realize that Passover is almost upon us. Our attention has been riveted to the pandemic, to the vaccine rollout, to the struggles over the fate of our country. Who had time to think about matzoh and Pesach cleaning? But ready or not, the Festival of Freedom is upon us, and we must get ready for all the demands and promise the holiday entails.

One of the beloved rituals of the seder is the consumption of Marmor. A bitter herb, perhaps in the form of horseradish or romaine lettuce, is consumed to remind us of the bitterness of slavery. The suffering of our ancestors, the horrors of being human chattel, all called to mind by the harsh taste of the marmor.

Counter-intuitive is the pronouncing of a brocha, a blessing, on the marmor. Blessings are recited on enjoyable things, pleasant-tasting or-smelling things, or spiritual actions that uplift and sanctify us. The marmor not only tastes bitter, it calls to mind bitter and harsh memories of oppression. Why did our sages decree that we bless the marmor, when all that is associated with the bitter herb is decidedly not a blessing?

Norman Lamm, in one of his essays on Passover, makes the point that the bitterness of today is not permanent. What is bad today can turn to good tomorrow. We make a blessing on marmor, on bitterness, to remember that the bitterness of slavery turned to the blessings of freedom and liberation. Slavery was a prelude to liberty. We have to bless the bad, for it leads to the good. The blessing is not on the suffering before us, but on the expected end of that suffering, which promises relief and renewal.

On this Passover Eve, as we still battle the coronavirus, as we still pray for healing, for the widespread distribution of life saving vaccines, for the end of the plague that has upended virtually every aspect of our lives, we must bless. We bless HaShem for allowing us to walk through this dark valley of disease and death. We bless the wisdom G-d has granted to the medical

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK (Continued)

profession to find the tools to heal the afflicted and protect the healthy. We bless the coming of Passover, to remind us that no matter how troubled our current world is, the miracles of the Torah are eternal, with lessons to sustain in all times of trouble and testing.

May you be blessed this Pesach, not with bitterness, but with the sweetness and support the Torah gives to all of us at all times. Chag Sameach.

PLEASE NOTE!

Due to the pandemic, a determination has not yet been made concerning our synagogue sedarim for this year. Last year, they were cancelled due to safety concerns. A decision will be made in the next few weeks, and the congregation will be notified. Your patience and understanding are appreciated,

Rabbi Pearl

ABOUT PURIM SERVICES

Purim services will take place Thursday evening, February 25th at 6:45 PM. Due to the pandemic, it cannot yet be determined if we will be having live services or via Zoom. A decision will be made closer to the date, and the congregation will be informed. Stay tuned!

CHAMETZ

Please see notice about selling your chametz after the page with the yearzeits.

SOME THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT PASSOVER

1. First-born sons need to fast for Passover.
2. Some of the best matzoh flour is made in Arizona.
3. Sometimes an orange is added to the Seder plate.
4. Going on for almost 30 years and hosting over 1000 people, the Kathmandu Seder was started in 1989 by the Israeli ambassador to Nepal.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

OFFICERS

President	Charles Greinsky
Executive VP	Martin Eisenberg
First VP	Kevin Brosnick
Second VP	Sharon Pekuly
Treasurer	Joel Abidor
Financial Secretary	Susan Finkelstein
Recording Secretary	Barbara Smith
Hebrew School Director	Lillian Brosnick
Sisterhood President	Sandra Levy

FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

3/05	-	5:35 pm	-	Adar 21
3/12	-	5:42 pm	-	Adar 28
3/19	-	6:50 pm	-	Nissan 6
3/26		6:57 pm	-	Nissan 13

FROM MARTY EISENBERG

I want to thank you for your continued support of the synagogue. Through your participation in the Sisterhood's Shalach Manot program, continued support for our Zoom services and the Rabbi's services and classes, we have been able to "keep in touch".

We appreciate both your generous donation of time and monetary support to keep our Shul going.

Hopefully, we will be able to get together in person and help our synagogue continue to grow.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

As I'm writing this article, we are preparing to deliver the Shalach Manot bags. The response to our Purim mailing was excellent, thanks to all our members who participated and to those who donated food contributions and/or monetary contributions. All their efforts and hard work made this event the success it was.

The following people have made food contributions and/or monetary contributions. Lillian Brosnick, Vlad Cohen, Rosalie & Marc Gold, Sandy Levy, Shelly Lynn, Ilya Miretskiy, Janice Rappaport, Laurie & David Raps, Deborah & Alvin Sall, Diane & Harris Schwartz, Judy Weisberg, Andrea & Lee Weiser. A special thank-you to Susan Finkelstein, Bette Goldstein, and Barbara Smith for their endless help in putting this all together. Our entire

SISTERHOOD NEWS (Continued)

Sisterhood has been supportive all the way. For this I am sincerely grateful.

A very special "Thank-You" as well must go to Michelle, Kevin, Lee and Jeremy Brosnick who spent their Sunday afternoon packing all the Shalach Manot bags.

Onward to Book Club news. On Monday, February 8, Talia Carner, author of "The Third Daughter", visited us virtually as we joined two other book clubs, one in Florida, and one in Massachusetts. We had a very nice turnout and the evening was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Diane Schwartz for setting up this event.

Our next Book Club evening will be on March 9, when we discuss "The Light We Lost". Our moderator will be Barbara Smith. Our future selection is "The Color of Water", by James McBride, about a black man's tribute to his mother.

The supermarkets have had Passover foods on their shelves since late January. The Seders are on March 27 & 28. We are still not where we would like to be with the pandemic, however, we are getting there.

May all of our CBI families have a peaceful and meaningful Passover. We have much to be thankful for. Wishing all a sweet and rewarding Passover.

Sandy Levy

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JUST PASS IT ON!

Smiling is infectious

by Spike Mulligan

Smiling is infectious

You catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today

I started smiling too

I walked around the corner

And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realized

I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile

And then realized it's worth

A single smile like mine

Could travel around the earth

So if you feel a smile begin

Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic

And get the world infected

JEWISH GUILT AT ITS BEST!

Morris calls his son in NY and says, "Benny, I have something to tell you. However, I don't want to discuss it. I'm merely telling you because you're my oldest child, and I thought you ought to know. I've made up my mind, I'm divorcing Mama."

The son is shocked, and asks his father to tell him what happened. "I don't want to get into it. My mind is made up." "But Dad, you just can't decide to divorce Mama just like that after 54 years together. What happened?" "It's too painful to talk about it. I only called because you're my son, and I thought you should know. I really don't want to get into it anymore than this. You can call your sister and tell her. It will spare me the pain." "But where's Mama? Can I talk to her?" "No, I don't want you to say anything to her about it. I haven't told her yet. Believe me it hasn't been easy. I've agonized over it for several days, and I've finally come to a decision. I have an appointment with the lawyer the day after tomorrow." "Dad, don't do anything rash. I'm going to take the first flight down. Promise me that you won't do anything until I get there." "Well, all right, I promise. Next week is Passover. I'll hold off seeing the lawyer until after the Seder.

Call your sister in NJ and break the news to her. I just can't bear to talk about it anymore." A half hour later, Morris receives a call from his daughter who tells him that she and her brother were able to get tickets and that they and the children will be arriving in Florida the day after tomorrow. "Benny told me that you don't want to

WELCOME BACK!

Congregation B'nai Israel is pleased to welcome back former long-term member, Judy Weisberg. So nice to have you back!

JEWISH GUILT AT ITS BEST! (Continued)

talk about it on the telephone, but promise me that you won't do anything until we both get there." Morris promises.

After hanging up from his daughter, Morris turns to his wife and says, "Well, it worked this time, but what are we going to do to get them to come down next year?"

GRANDMA'S MATZO KUGEL



GRANDMA'S MATZO KUGEL

- 6 whole matzos, broken into small pieces
- Oil for sautéing
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 celery stalks, chopped into small pieces
- 4 large mushrooms, sliced
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 t. salt (to taste)
- ½ t. black pepper
- 1 T. paprika

Soak matzo pieces in warm water. Drain. Sauté vegetables until soft. Mix with moist matzo. Add eggs, salt and pepper. Spread kugel into large, oiled baking pan, and sprinkle paprika on top.

Bake at 350°F for one hour.

Chava Dumas, Aish.com



A MOST INTERESTING AND REMARKABLE MAN!

Very inspiring and worth watching. Just have to view some ads before it starts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scCvi3vY4jQ>

Yahrzeits FOR March 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

March	Day	Adar	Yahrzeit Of	Relations	Relative
1	Mon	17 Adar	Miriam Rosenblatt	Aunt	Aviva Levine
1	Mon	17 Adar	Mildred Horowitz	Sister	Bernard Persky
2	Tues	18 Adar	Sylvia Applebaum	Mother	Arlene Gerstman
3	Wed	19 Adar	Abram Shklover	Grandfather	Mrs. Papirov
4	Thurs	20 Adar	Dora Hirsch	Mother	William Hirsch
5	Fri	21 Adar	Jean Slochevsky	Mother	Paula Armband
5	Fri	21 Adar	Irvin Erdman	Grandfather	Charles Greinsky
7	Sun	23 Adar	Abraham Cooper	Father	Marvin Cooper
9	Tues	25 Adar	Lawrence Wasser	Father	Valerie Levy
10	Wed	26 Adar	Gittel Klainminc	Mother	Dr. Betty Jensen
12	Fri	28 Adar	Irene Goldberg	Mother	Alice Frey
12	Fri	28 Adar	Joseph Cohen	Brother	Al Cohen
13	Sat	29 Adar	Shirley Berman	Sister	Anita Gordon
		Nissan			
14	Sun	1 Nissan	Harry Levy	Father-In-Law	Sandy Levy
14	Sun	1 Nissan	Fraida bat Pinchas	Mother	Miron Berenshteyn
15	Mon	2 Nissan	Sylvia Herbst	Mother-In-Law	Florrie Herbst
16	Tues	3 Nissan	Abraham Fruchter	Father	Anita Sini
16	Tues	3 Nissan	Marlene Rhian	Friend	Ana Cramer
16	Tues	3 Nissan	Richard Goretsky	Brother	Jay Goretsky
20	Sat	7 Nissan	William Marin	Father	Al Marin
22	Mon	9 Nissan	Marilyn Ross	Relation	The Ross Family
22	Mon	9 Nissan	Prof Richard Jensen	Husband	Dr. Betty Jensen
24	Wed	11 Nissan	Mordechai ben Meir	Father	Miron Berenshteyn
26	Fri	13 Nissan	Gary Ross	Husband	Sharon Ross
26	Fri	13 Nissan	Mania Saks	Mother	Manny Saks
29	Mon	16 Nissan	Dora Perl	Mother-In-Law	Marvin Cooper
30	Tues	17 Nissan	Anna Fox	Mother	Melvin Fox
31	Wed	18 Nissan	Danielle Goldberg	Daughter	Marian and Arthur Goldberg
31	Wed	18 Nissan	Danielle Goldberg	Sister	Beth Marin



One of our restrictions of Passover is a prohibition against possessing chametz during Passover. Chametz is any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats, or spelt that has come into contact with water and been allowed to ferment and rise. In practice, just about anything made from these grains, other than products specifically marked “Kosher for Passover” is chametz. This prohibition applies only to chametz that is owned by a Jew. You can have it owned by a gentile in your home if it is kept in a closed place. Thus, you may sell your chametz to a gentile and purchase it back after the holiday. To facilitate such a sale, you can designate the Rabbi to act as your agent by completing and returning this form by Friday March 26th.

While there is no charge for this service, it is customary to make a donation (maot chittim).

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

I hereby authorize Rabbi Pearl to act as my agent for the sale of chametz for Passover, commencing at sundown on Friday, March 26, 2021, with the chametz to be reacquired after sundown on Sunday, April 4, 2021.

Please include a generous donation with your chametz authorization. All funds collected go to help Staten Islanders who do not have money to purchase necessities for Pesach.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FLYER TO SUSAN AT THE TEMPLE BY THURSDAY, MARCH 25.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

If you would like to put your donation on your credit card, please call Susan at 718-987-8188.

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