

THE SHOFAR MARCH 2023

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

Facebook: Congregation B'nai Israel, NY

Rabbi Pinchas Pearl

718-564-5518
Lamdan453@gmail.com

Preschool & UPK

718-987-6200
Cbiacademy123@gmail.com

FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

Monday night, March 6 and Tuesday March 7th is the holiday of Purim. A lively day devoted to boisterous synagogue services, gift giving, costumes and festive meals, it is everyone's favorite holiday. But what does it mean?

The key personality in the Megillah story, of course, is Esther, coming from the term Seter, which means 'hidden'. She lived through a time when the presence of Hashem was seemingly hidden from our people, and she rose to the occasion to help to save the Jewish nation.

And of course, more than anything, the Megillah itself, surprisingly, doesn't feature the name of Hashem. No mention of God in the entire book, but Hashem was behind everything that happened. And so, our aim through reading the Megillah, is to reveal the hidden presence of Hashem at that time, and indeed through many occasions in our history.

Therefore, Purim serves as a model of a day for us to follow throughout the year, so that on all occasions, we can indeed feel the presence of Hashem and raise our levels of Kedusha, of holiness and spirituality. G-d may be hidden, but He is there, and our challenge is to find the hidden presence of G-d. No matter how far G-d appears in our lives, we must seek and we shall find Him.

So, have a great day! May you succeed in revealing the hidden and have a wonderful Purim Sameach.

Rabbi Pinchas Pearl

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM

FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING:

March 3	5:31 PM
March 10	5:39 PM
March 17	6:46 PM*
March 24	6:54 PM
March 31	7:01 PM

* Daylight savings begins on Sunday, March 12th.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CBI

Friday, March 3: Shabbat Across America, dinner at 6:30 PM followed by services at 8 PM with speaker Reverend Dr. Terry Troia.

Monday, March 6 at 7 PM: Megillah Reading

Tuesday, March 7: Delivery of Shalach Manos – drivers needed! Contact the office if you can volunteer.

Sunday, March 26: Sisterhood Fundraiser event – "Death of a Salesman" at Little Victory Theater (see Sisterhood Update and attached flyer for details).

Wednesday, May 17 at 7 PM: Community Honoree Event at Manor Rd JCC - Bette Goldstein (Honoree).

Ongoing: Sunday at 10 AM: Learn with Rabbi Pearl on Sunday mornings at 10 AM (listen to weekly announcement for details).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marty Eisenberg, President

In February, I made a trip to Las Vegas. Although I'm not really a gambler, I had a good time seeing the sights and shows and eating too much good food. I saw lots of people from different areas and backgrounds enjoying the city with families and getting along. After returning, I was confronted with how to deal with "Hate Weekend" towards Jews. Thank goodness nothing happened to our synagogue or others and the police made a special effort to keep us safe. We must continue to be vigilant, aware of our surroundings, and what we can do to keep our synagogue and community safe. We are going to look into obtaining a grant to improve the security of our building and members.

As we celebrate Purim, we know that hatred of Jews is not new. Let us celebrate. Have a fun time with noisy groggers and dressing up in costumes. Eat hamantaschen. We celebrate Esther and Mordechai and the saving of the Jews in Shushan. I hope that you will join our celebration on March 6 and 7. Help the Sisterhood distribute the Shalach Manot.

On a sad and personal note, I wish to express condolences to Harris Schwartz and his family on the passing of Diane. She was a vital member of our congregation for many years. She was a doer and leader. She will be sadly missed.

Marty Eisenberg, President

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

The meeting was held on February 15, 2023, chaired by Bette Goldstein.

We have been busy preparing for Purim. Thank you to all who have sent in their response for the Shalach Manos. On Thursday, February 23d, volunteers put labels on the bags and prepared them for packing. We will pack the bags on Monday, February 27th at 10:00 A.M. Packages will be mailed out to out of towners. The Megillah reading will be the evening of March 6th and the bags will be distributed on March 7th. *We need drivers to deliver the packages.* Please let us know if you can help out with this important job.

On Sunday, March 26th, we will be going to The Little Victory Theater to see the classic, "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller. The price will be \$28.00 per ticket (see the attached flyer). Please let Laurie know if you are interested by calling her at 718-967-4975 or 917-971-8488.

Laurie is also looking into the Beatles exhibit at the Prudential Center. More details to follow.

We are having a dinner on March 3, 2023 to celebrate Shabbat across America. The cost is \$36.00 per person. Please let Susan know if you are interested by calling the office at 718-987-8188 and make your reservation.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 16th at 8:00 PM via Zoom. Please try to join us.

Laurie Raps, Recording Secretary

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Our heartfelt condolences to Harris Schwartz, Howard and Karyn Schwartz and their family on the passing of Diane Schwartz.

A Tribute to Diane Schwartz

By Laurie Raps

As most of you probably know, our esteemed member and friend, Diane Schwartz, passed away on February 18th. She was a member of Congregation B'nai Israel for many years and was a vital member of our synagogue community.

She chaired committees, helped prepare numerous dinners for the shul, was president of the Sisterhood, donated generously for holidays and Kiddushim, and did so much for us.

Diane was so special. I remember that I once did a small favor for her. To thank me, she and Harris took David and me out for a beautiful meal at a comedy club. We got the show and dinner. That was Diane. She appreciated anything that someone did for her.

She also had a great personality with the biggest smile. When she walked into a room, the whole place lit up. A shul event or Yom Tov was not complete until Diane showed up. To know her was to love her.

The whole congregation misses her terribly. We are missing a piece of the heart of the shul.

Harris, please know that we feel your loss deeply and will always be there for you. May you find peace in your memories.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Al and Sophia Cohen in memory of Joseph Cohen

Ana Cramer in memory of Arye Feldman

Datnova family in memory of Luba Reinesh

Rita and Marty Eisenberg

Daniel Katz

Diane and Harris Schwartz for tzedakah

Francine and Ira Sklar in memory of Irving Boxer and George Sklar

Judy Weisberg in memory of Rita Silverman and Teddy Silverman

Andrea and Lee Weiser in memory of Lawrence Pearlberg

The Red Band of Courage (or Cowardice) and Other Jewish Superstitions

By Joel Cohen

Pooh, Pooh, Pooh, I'm not superstitious, *ken ayin ha'ra* (no evil eye). But why take chances?

So, of course, I observe the secular warnings: Avoid black cats and don't walk under ladders -- and, honoring the Druids, I knock on wood so as not to invoke bad karma when celebrating good news. No shoes on the bed. No 13th-floor apartment (fortunately my building goes up only to the 4th floor so, fingers crossed, I'm okay).

But my major concentration, of course, is on the particularly Jewish superstitions which are legion and have a character all their own.

A most popular one centers on the *raiteh bendel* (*red band*), which can be found pinned on a child's underwear, by a cautious parent, as it was on mine ...or in adult years, in full view in the family car, to avoid vehicular accidents. (Not proven, but some observers thought that Donald Trump's fondness for red ties reflected his insecure homage to *raite-bendel* superstition.)

Another belief popular in Jewish lore is that of *emes genaussen* -- that if someone sneezes when something is said, then the words are true. (Full disclosure; When people seemed reluctant to believe what I was saying, I tried to give my words credulity by forcing a sneeze. But, trust me, that's almost impossible.)

Also, people having a button sewn on the clothing that they're wearing must keep a piece of thread in their mouths during the sewing to prevent their brains from turning to cotton.

Some of the beliefs are most considerate of others, as when we bring bread and salt to people who have just moved into a house or apartment. Perhaps most considerate was the renowned New York City gangster of bygone years who would not kill on Shabbos.

Our atomic weapon against someone believed to embody the evil eye is salt in the pocket.

Many of the beliefs have food connections, for instance, when on Rosh Hashanah, we toss into a body of water pieces of bread representing our sins.

If truth be told, I'm bothered by the principle underlying many superstitions: Why does the Almighty need surrogates (such as the Evil Eye) to carry out evil decrees?

Perhaps the most bothersome is the belief that if someone is very ill, we change that person's name or add a new one, to confuse the evil spirit.

As a very sick kid at an early age, I was in bad enough shape to merit an additional name, and the family added Chaim ("life") to my existing Hebrew one (Yisroel). An aunt of mine said if they were adding a Hebrew name, why not add an English one, as well. The family agreed, and nominated her to come up with the addition. She chose "Hugh," which, to me, goes great with Grant or Jackman, but borders on incompatible with Cohen.

Still, *ken ayin ha'ra*, it's helped keep me alive for more than nine decades. So that's one superstition I'm not messing with ...*pooh pooh pooh!*

NOTE: The Shofar and its readers would very much like to know what Jewish superstitions you and your friends and family have observed over the years. So please send something about them to Joel Cohen at sijello@aol.com for next month's edition, and please say whether it's okay to use your name. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

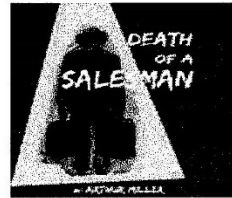
Yahrzeits for February 2023

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 Laurie Raps at (718) 967-4975 or sparl1012@aim.com.

Hebrew Date	Yahrzeit Of	Relationship	Relative	Date in 2023
9 Adar I	Alexander Gerstman	Father	Aaron Gerstman	March 2
10 Adar I	Lawrence Pearlberg	Father	Andrea Weiser	March 3
10 Adar I	Leonard White	Father	Sandy Poris	March 3
11 Adar I	Lillian Silverman	Mother	Beth Garfinkel	March 4
12 Adar I	Mary Surpin	Mother-In-Law	Joel Cohen	March 5
13 Adar I	Walter Banner	Father	Roz Greenzweig	March 6
14 Adar I	Helen "Chana" Chimerine	Mother	Roberta Afflitto	March 7
15 Adar I	Norma Berman	Mother	Marty Eisenberg	March 8
15 Adar I	Doris Marin	Grandmother	William Marin	March 8
17 Adar I	Miriam Rosenblatt	Aunt	Aviva Levine	March 10
17 Adar I	Mildred Horowitz	Sister	Bernard Persky	March 10
18 Adar I	Sylvia Applebaum	Mother	Arlene Gerstman	March 11
19 Adar I	Abram Shklover	Grandfather	Mrs. Papirov	March 12
20 Adar I	Dora Hirsch	Mother	William Hirsch	March 13
21 Adar I	Jean Slochevsky	Mother	Paula Armband	March 14
21 Adar I	Irvin Erdman	Grandfather	Charles Greinsky	March 14
23 Adar I	Abraham Cooper	Father	Marvin Cooper	March 16
25 Adar II	Lawrence Wasser	Husband	Doris Wasser	March 18
26 Adar I	Gittel Klainminc	Mother	Dr. Betty Jensen	March 19
28 Adar II	Irene Goldberg	Mother	Alice Frey	March 21
28 Adar II	Joseph Cohen	Brother	Al Cohen	March 21
29 Adar I	Shirley Berman	Sister	Anita Gordon	March 22
30 Adar I	Harry Levy	Father-In-Law	Sandy Levy	March 23
30 Adar I	Fraida bat Pinchas	Mother	Miron Berenshteyn	March 23
2 Nissan	Sylvia Herbst	Mother-In-Law	Florrie Herbst	March 24
3 Nissan	Abraham Fruchter	Father	Anita Sini	March 25
3 Nissan	Marlene Rhian	Friend	Ana Cramer	March 25
3 Nissan	Richard Goretsky	Brother	Jay Goretsky	March 25
9 Nissan	Marilyn Ross	Relation	The Ross Family	March 31
9 Nissan	Prof Richard Jensen	Husband	Dr. Betty Jensen	March 31

**CBI's Sisterhood invites you to join us
on Sunday, March 26, 2023
at 2:00 PM to see
"Death of a Salesman"**

By Arthur Miller



**Location: Little Victory Theatre
4089 Victory Boulevard
718-524-8467**

**Please return the slip below, as soon as possible, with check payable to:
Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, N.Y. 10306
For additional information please call Laurie Raps at 1-917-971-8488.**

RSVP by March 17, 2023

Show: "Death of a Salesman"

_____ @ \$28.00 per person: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ Email _____

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