

THE SHOFAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

Congregation B'nai Israel

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FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur dominate the calendar for September. Called "The High Holidays" or the "Days of Awe" these days are moving and challenging. We are judged for the year that has passed, and our fate for the coming year is decreed. All aspects of our lives, indeed our very lives, are at stake. These are not days to be taken lightly or casually.

There is a story about a man wandering lost in the forest, after several days he sees another person. He runs up to him and says, "I am lost and so glad I found you. Can you help me find the way out?" The man replies, "Unfortunately, I am lost too. But we can show each other the ways not to go. Now, come let us search for a way out together."

The Yamim Noraim, the High Holidays, give us the chance to come together and to search for a way forward with one another. Look around the room and you will see many fellow travelers, who no doubt struggle with many of the same things you do. May we all draw strength from each other, as we move into this new year and season of renewal.

May you be blessed with finding the path to a better year, one of blessing, health and happiness for you and your family.

Rabbi Pinchas Pearl

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM

(see p. 2 for High Holiday Schedule)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach 5784, the Jewish New Year, we eat apples and honey and eat sweet things to remind us that we want a sweet year. We warmly greet each other. We wish for a better year, one of health, happiness and prosperity. We hope and pray for continued blessings and peace. We gather at the synagogue and pray together as a community. We remember our departed friends and family. We make a promise to do better and be better.

I wish to thank all those who have worked to make the past year as successful. To all those who stepped up and worked to keep the synagogue running smoothly and to those who donated time and money for our upkeep and activities, THANK YOU! To those who would like to help our community grow and prosper, JOIN IN! YOU ARE WELCOME!

From my family to yours, wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous new year.

Marty Eisenberg, CBI President

CANDLE LIGHTING:

Friday, September 1	7:11 PM
Friday, September 8	7:00 PM
Friday, September 15	6:48 PM
Friday, September 23	6:36 PM
Sunday, September 24	6:33 PM
Friday, September 29	6:24 PM

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

With the negative news that we hear just about every day, I wanted to begin with something positive as we approach a New Year.

For the last few weeks we have put together and sold our Honey & New Year card bags. I am so glad to report that out of 100 bags, we are very close to selling out with only a small amount left. Thank you to Susan, Laurie, Eileen, Iris and Bette for their help in getting it all done. And thank you to all of our congregants who participated so that we can have a successful endeavor. We couldn't do it without you.

Our Book Club met on zoom on August 31 at 7:30 to discuss "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. A classic for decades, and written in 1912, we had a lot to talk about. Our next selection is "Kantika" by Elizabeth Graver.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Thursday, September 7, 11a.m. at the shul.

Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the New Year, begins on the evening of September 15, and continues on the 16th and 17th. From all of us in Sisterhood, we wish Rabbi Pearl and all of our fellow congregants a New Year filled with good health, happiness, peace, and sweetness.

Sandy Levy, Sisterhood President

HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 15th

Candle lighting	6:48 PM
Mincha	7:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah - 1st Day

Saturday, September 16th

Shacharis	8:30 AM
Musaf	11:00 AM
Mincha	6:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah - 2nd Day

Sunday, September 17th

Shacharis	8:30 AM
Shofar Blowing	10:30 AM
Musaf	11:00 AM
Tashlich	4:30 PM*
Mincha	6:30 PM
Maariv	7:45 PM

*Meeting at 4:00 PM at beginning of Great Kills Park (at Hylan Blvd.) to walk to boat launch area.

Erev Yom Kippur

Sunday, September 24

Candle lighting	6:33 PM
Kol Nidre	6:45 PM

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 25

Shacharis	8:30 AM
Yizkor	11:00 AM
Musaf	12:00 noon
Mincha	4:30 PM
Neilah	6:00 PM
Shofar Blowing	7:30 PM

Important: Please contact Susan Finkelstein in the office at 718-987-8188 for tickets for the High Holidays services if you have not already done so.

Encourage Your Kids and Grandkids to Be Family Reporters

By Joel H. Cohen

If your experience is like mine, you frequently have questions about your family history, but, alas, there's no one left to answer them.

So it's become one of my crusades (if you'll pardon the expression) to urge adults to encourage their children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, no matter how young, to interview them and other family elders about their family's characters and meaningful events. The process is likely to be most enjoyable for both the interviewers and interviewees. And the result might well be a family treasure.

Among the tidbits I've learned: My four grandparents emigrated from Russia around the turn of the previous century. My father's family name was Kazdan, but apparently the Ellis Island intake officer just wrote down a common Jewish name, and Cohen it's stayed for ages and the foreseeable future.

My mother's father was one of four brothers, ala "Avalon." One whom I never met was remembered as saintly; another as very, very observant. My grandfather was tough toward his four kids, but my favorite relative, the fourth brother was something of a hippy, before the adjective was in use. He not only encouraged his older daughter to learn to drive, but to buy a car!

What kind of work did my forebears do? My grandfathers were both carpenters (but I can't drive a nail straight; so much for heredity). What attracted each grandma and grandpa to each other? I never learned.

And while we're at it, who's the young guy who appeared in a rowboat with my then-single mom, in a photo found among a batch after she passed away? Again, no one left to ask.

In my grandparents' generation, the boys surely went to Hebrew school (cheder), as did my contemporaries. At the "college" attended by the latter group, the class was taught by a good but strict teacher who wasn't opposed to using a stick to drive home a point. The boys got even in several ways. One was to set the classroom clock ahead so class sessions were shorter. The crowning blow came at Bar Mitzvah time. The teacher's son, a journalist, would usually write the Bar Mitzvah speech, which usually ended with a prayer for the boy's parents, siblings and teacher. My contemporaries often would "forget" to include the blessing for the teacher.

For some reason, I had the same teacher, but in the privacy -- and safety -- of my home, so there was no caning. An "extra" he provided was some lessons in Yiddish, and I still have an assigned Yiddish letter I wrote: "Dear Friend, Today my father took me to a baseball game." (In Yiddish "Mein Tiere Frait, Haint, hawt mein tateth meir genemene tzoo a bazeball game.)"

Memorable days, with memories worth holding onto.

There's no minimum age for a family reporter. So again, I strongly suggest enlisting the youngsters as family reporters.

So get the kids to get started on those interviews!

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Wishing Jerry Hauser a speedy and complete recovery.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Linda Fisch in memory of Robert Davidson
Arlene Gerstman in memory of Theodore Appelbaum
Gary Gordon
Gladys and Joel Graham in memory of Sala Ziegler
Charles and Ilene Greinsky in memory of Sarah Greinsky and Ruth Greinsky
Jerry and Rita Hauser in memory of Lillie and Sam Hauser
Betty Jensen in memory of Shlomo Klainminc
Arthur Katsnelson in memory of Boris Opancha
William and Beth Marin for sponsoring an oneg in memory of Amy Marin
Sharon and Joel Pekuly in memory of Bernard and Gladys Greenglass
Regina and Sam Perel for sponsoring a kiddush
Sandra and Stephen Poris in memory of Paul White and Jennie Poris
Laurie and David Raps in memory of Irwin Rosenblum
Judith and Paul Rosen in memory of Harry Zuniss
Harris Schwartz in memory of Valerie Levy and Alan Weisberg
Harris Schwartz for tzedakah
Ira and Francine Sklar in memory of Miriam Sklar
Norman Smith in memory of Beverly Smith
Uchitelev and Dubner families
Weiser family for co-sponsoring an oneg

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, September 4th at 5 PM – Barbecue and Movie

Saturday, September 9 at 11 PM – Selichos service via Zoom

Sunday, September 10 at 10 AM – Sisterhood silver polishing

Thursday, September 7 at 11 AM – Sisterhood meeting

Friday, September 29 – Sukkah dinner – details to be announced.

Ongoing (listen to weekly announcements):

Sundays at 10 AM – Rabbi's class

Sundays at 11:30 AM – Men's Club meeting

Yahrzeits for September 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
15 Elul	Anna Preiser	Mother	Gloria Hirsch	September 1
15 Elul	Harry Surpin	Father-In-Law	Joel Cohen	September 1
17 Elul	Miriam L. Sklar	Mother	Ira Sklar	September 3
18 Elul	Mark Cramer	Husband	Ana Cramer	September 4
23 Elul	Shirley Cohen	Mother	Joel Cohen	September 9
24 Elul	David Morrison	Father	Aviva Levine	September 10
25 Elul	Aaron Steingart	Father-In-Law	Stuart Suss	September 11
25 Elul	Sala Ziegler	Mother	Gladys Graham	September 11
26 Elul	Irwin Rosenblum	Father	Laurie Raps	September 12
27 Elul	Gladys Greenglass	Mother	Sharon Pekuly	September 13
29 Elul	Rhoda Moddel	Mother	Susan Finkelstein	September 15
3 Tishrei	Isidore Suss	Father	Stuart Suss	September 18
3 Tishrei	Lawrence Wasser	Husband	Doris Wasser	September 18
3 Tishrei	Scott Rappaport	Son	Neal & Janice Rappaport	September 18
10 Tishrei	Ruth Greinsky	Mother	Charles Greinsky	September 25
12 Tishrei	Beverly B. Smith	Wife	Norman Smith	September 27
13 Tishrei	Shura Krichman	Mother-In-Law	Miron Berenshteyn	September 28

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