

THE SHOFAR

April 2025



Congregation B'nai Israel

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Laurie Raps
Marty Eisenberg
Sandra Levy
Yolanda Zinn

Come Join Us!

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES – 8 PM

SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES – 9:30 AM

“Pearls of Wisdom”



Our Rabbi writes....

How short can a Pesach Seder be?

This can actually be a particularly relevant question, for example for a soldier who is on guard duty in the army, or a doctor who is engaged in life saving work, and many other people who are doing important work and want to snatch a few minutes to fulfil the mitzvah of ‘v’higadeta le’vincha – ‘you must relate to your children the details of what happened when we left Egypt.

The answer to this question appears in the Hagadah itself. Raban Gamliel taught “ in order to fulfil your obligation of the ‘hagadata’, to relate the story of the exodus of Egypt, you must refer to three things. What are they? Pesach, Matzah and Maror!

Pesach refers to the pascal lamb offering, Matzah – to the unleavened bread that we eat, and Maror – to the bitter herbs that we eat. So all you need to do is to refer to these three things, it will take a few minutes and you will have fulfilled your obligation! And the Hagadah helps us by presenting three brief passages in which there are details of these three mitzvot.

I find it fascinating that actually within these passages we go one step further. In each instance for the Pesach, the Matzah and the Maror we ask the same question “ –Al shum ma?” – for what reason? Why do we perform these mitzvot? We didn’t have to ask the question. All that is required is to mention these mitzvot – but it is central to our Jewish psyche that we are inquisitive, that we always ask questions – we want to know why we do things! Even though to fulfil the precept, all you have to do is to say something, we want to know the rationale behind it. Once you understand the reasoning, it enhances the activity.

It is for this reason that the asking of questions comes right to the heart of our Seder experience. We encourage our children lovingly to ask, to enquire, to be inquisitive. We let them know that there is no such thing as a stupid question. We encourage them, as they enter into adulthood, to never stop asking.

The “al shum ma” needs to be an integral part of our Jewish experience always. Even when we have a ‘chok’, a law from God which hasn’t any apparent reason that is obvious to us – even there we should enquire – what are the benefits? what could be the rationale? The “al shum ma” needs to be a constant feature of our lives.

The Hebrew words for a reason is “ta’am” which literally means taste. When you have the reason for doing something, it makes the experience all the more sweet – and you will certainly come back for more. Gut Yontiff!

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

April 4th at 7:07 pm
April 11th at 7:14 pm
April 18th at 7:21 pm
April 25th at 7:29 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin Brosnick



As we begin to experience the start of spring, we are filled with a sense of renewal and hope. This season brings with it the longer days, warmer temperatures and the promise of new beginnings. The cold, dark and dreary days of winter slowly come to an end, and we are now reminded of the opportunities for growth and transformation soon to come. Spring is a time for reflection and gratitude. As we gather to celebrate our traditions let us take a moment to appreciate the warmth of our community. Each of you plays an essential role in making our synagogue a place of joy, connection and hope.

This spring, I encourage everyone to engage in acts of kindness and service. Whether through volunteering, reaching out to one another, or participating in our upcoming events, let's remember the importance of supporting one another, our community and our synagogue. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in our community, while showing compassion and strength to those who need it.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Passover, let us remember the themes of liberation and renewal. May these values inspire us to seek freedom not only in our lives but also in the lives of those around us.

Wishing you and your families a joyful and uplifting spring filled with blessings, growth, and connection.

Warm regards,
Kevin Brosnick

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

Sandy Levy
President

It was a joy to attend the Purim services on the evening of March 13 and to see so many children and adults dressed in their finery (costumes) for the occasion.

Rabbi Pearl had all those in costume come up on the bima to pose for a picture. So began a lively service with the reading of the Megillah by our rabbi. When Haman's name was mentioned our sanctuary erupted with the sounds of the many groggers filling the room. After the service we all enjoyed dessert with hamantashen, donated by Harris Schwartz, and a feast of other goodies. A lovely, festive evening.

Leading up to Purim, Sisterhood was hard at work organizing, purchasing, sending out the Purim letters, packing the Shalach Manot bags as well as sending our out-of-town members their packages. Thank goodness we have Susan Finkelstein in the office keeping track of all the responses. Thank you, Susan!

This project was a success due to the work of many people who contributed resources as well as taking an active role in putting it all together and delivery. Thank you to the following: Mila & Joel Abidor, Michelle & Kevin Brosnick, Iris Cohen, Lillian Brosnick, Rita & Marty Eisenberg, Susan & Richie Finkelstein, Rhoda Finkelstein, Rita Hauser, Karen & Oleg Kosubevsky, Sonia Lam, Leigh Patterson, Janice Rappaport, Laurie & David Raps, Judy Weisberg, Andrea Weiser. A huge ThankYou! If I have accidentally omitted a name, I will include it in next month's Shofar.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a very special "Thank You " to Leigh Patterson, who did all of the letters in the Purim bags. She did a wonderful job, balancing family, work and CBI. To all of the people who participated in this year's fundraiser "Thank You" for helping to make it a success!!





UPCOMING EVENTS!

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Congregation 2nd Night Pesach Seder

@ B'nai Israel

Service begins at 8:00pm

Sale of Chometz Form is attached

Seder Reservation Form is attached

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Wagner College Theatre: "Rent"

\$32 per person. Contact Laurie or Susan.

Thursday, May 29, 2025 @ 6pm

Hillel of Staten Island's Kavod Circle Reception

JCC Lewis Stolzenberg Social Hall

Honoring Council Member Kamillah Hanks, Dr. Timothy Lynch & Dr. Lori Weintrob

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Congregation B'nai Israel's

90th Anniversary Luncheon

Honoring

Our Hebrew School Graduates Through the Years

Get your journal ads in! Form is attached.

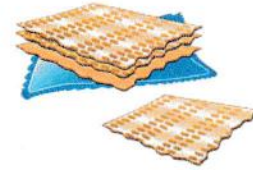
Contract for Selling of Chometz 2025
Please return to synagogue office attention: Rabbi Pearl

I authorize Rabbi Pearl to act as my agent for the sale of chometz in my possession, at home, at work, and at any other location.

Signed:

Address: _____

Please consider including a donation to assist those in need this Passover. All donations received will be donated to help others purchase food for Passover.



PASSOVER SEDER – Second Night
Sunday, April 13, 2025
At 8:30 pm (Services begin at 8:00 PM)

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
SI NY 10306
718-987-8188, office@sicbi.com

CBI is partnering with NJOP (National Jewish Outreach Program) to offer a Passover Across America (PAA) Seder

The Seder will be led by Rabbi Pinchas Pearl.

MENU: Chicken or Brisket, Gefilte Fish, Matzah Ball Soup, Potato Kugel, Zucchini Kugel, Cole Slaw, Assorted Cakes, Grape Juice, Soda, Coffee/Tea

Reservations and payments (cash, checks, charge cards) for our second night's Seder must be received by April 5, 2025.

Please mail the tear-off and make your check payable to:

Congregation B'nai Israel
45 Twombly Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306
Attention: Passover Seder

..... Tear-Off.....

_____ @ \$65 per person for chicken meal	\$ _____
_____ @ \$75 per person for brisket meal	\$ _____
_____ @ \$25 (children ages 5-10 yrs old)	\$ _____
_____ @ 4 years old and under	\$ FREE
Total.....	\$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone Number _____ Email _____



Congregation B'nai Israel

45 Twombly Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10306

Please help Congregation B'nai Israel celebrate the 50th anniversary of our building by purchasing an ad in our anniversary journal. This journal will be distributed at our luncheon taking place on April 27, 2025.

The prices for ads are as follows:

Inside of Front or Back Cover.....\$300	Quarter Page \$75
Full Page.....\$200	Business Card..... \$50
Half Page.....\$100	Greeting Section \$36

All proceeds will go to strengthen the synagogue and its charitable works in the community.

Please send your ad to the temple by April 10, 2025. Please make all checks payable to:

Congregation B'nai Israel

45 Twombly Avenue

Staten Island, New York 10306

Contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees and the Anniversary Committee.

Please indicate the size of your ad. Either attach a business card or write your ad on the bottom of this flyer (or on the back).

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

Scenes from Around the Shul...

Marty Eisenberg & his minions (get the pun?) made Hamantashen in anticipation of Purim





**Purim Celebrated at Congregation B'nai Israel
March 13, 2025**



Celebrating Special Occasions & Events



**Happy Birthday Lee Brosnick on April 11th.
Congratulations Lillian Phillips on the engagement of grandson Zach.
How exciting! Rita Hauser's artwork on display at the JCC**

Many Thanks for Your Generous Donation

Diane Arneth to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund

Diane and Paul Crisalli to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund

Sandy Levy to the Larry Zinn Landscaping Fund

Marvin Cooper in memory of Abraham L. Cooper

Marty and Rita Eisenberg in memory of Norma Berman

Richie and Susan Finkelstein in memory of Ruth Finkelstein

Alice and Steven Frey in memory of Irene G. Goldberg

Beth Garfinkel in memory of Robert and Lillian Silverman

Arlene Gerstman in memory of Alex Gerstman and Sylvia Appelbaum

Anita Gordon in memory of Laurence Alan Gordon and Shirley Berman

Michael and Elen Katz

Marc Levy

Sam and Regina Perel

Sandra and Stephen Poris in memory of May Poris and Leonard White

Laurie and David Raps for tzedakah

Andrea and Lee Weiser in memory of Lawrence Pearlberg



Yahrzeits for April 2025

Hebrew Date/ Calendar Date	Yahrzeit of	Member	Relationship
3 Nissan April 1	Marlene Rhian	Ana Cramer	Friend
9 Nissan April 7	Prof. Richard Jensen	Dr. Betty Jensen	Husband
11 Nissan April 9	Mordechai ben Meir	Miron Berenshteyn	Father
16 Nissan April 14	Dora Perl	Marvin Cooper	Mother-in-law
17 Nissan April 15	Anna Fo	Melvin Fox	Mother
18 Nissan April 16	Danielle Goldberg	Beth Marin	Sister
20 Nissan April 18	Sydney Kettner	Dr. Steven Goldstein	Mother-in-law
20 Nissan April 18	Abraham Ganzman	Joel Ganzman	Father
24 Nissan April 22	Chaim ben Mordechai	Ilya Miretsky	Father
26 Nissan April 24	Oscar Herzekow	Harris Schwartz	Father-in-law
29 Nissan April 27	Elsie Krevoy	Ilene Greinsky	Grandmother
30 Nissan April 28	Harry Sotland	Lillian Brosnick	Father
1 Iyar April 29	Ben Hirsch	Mrs. William Hirsch	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 had 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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