

The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

The Traditional Synagogue of Rockland County and Northern New Jersey

VOL. LXXI, NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2020

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

The United States, Waylaid

CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5781

's we are introduced to our patriarch Abraham, we are told that his father took him and Sarah and others and left their dwelling place of Ur to resettle in the land of Canaan. Our sages teach us that Abraham was fleeing from religious persecution, Abraham's message about the unity of God was not well received in an idol worshiping culture.

However, we are informed that instead of reaching their intended destination Abraham and his family settled in Haran. the actual birthplace of Abraham. Only subsequently, after receiving the command from God to leave "from your land, your

birthplace and your father's home" to the land of Israel does Abraham complete his intended journey. Why did Abraham not continue on to his intended destination?

The key to the answer lies in the command Abraham received. Perhaps Abraham was torn between his desire to serve God and his attraction to all that was familiar from home. After being waylaid in Haran, Abraham is commanded to keep moving! Do not let the land that you know, the familiarity of your hometown and the comforts of home distract you from your ultimate purpose. Continue on, promises God, and I will make you a blessing to all of the world.

It is difficult, when faced with the challenge of our destiny, to keep moving. We want things to remain the same. We want that feeling of nostalgia as we walk through our hometown, the warm feeling of thinking about our childhood home, and oh! all the comforts that we have become

accustomed to!

Our nation has always been a haven for those fleeing religious persecution. We treasure the separation of church and state that guarantees our right to practice our faith. Our nation had grown to become a model for all nations of the rights of the individual and the protection of the vulnerable, but we have become too comfortable, and for all the

> warm and inspiring feelings that we have for

Our journey as a nation is far from over, our work far from done. It is time that we re-embrace our national destiny to

our nation we have failed to complete the work, this great journey of America.

provide for our citizens the healthcare and protections that they need. It is time that we reassert our right to take care of our citizens first. In short, it is time to get back to providing liberty and justice for all. These are difficult and complex issues which require compromise and sacrifice on all sides, but we can ignore the call of our destiny no longer either we move forward towards our original goal or consume ourselves with the blindness of extremism.

We all get waylaid from time to time, and our nation is no different. If Abraham can get waylaid on his way to serve God we certainly have no cause for self-doubt over this harmful national detour. As election day approaches let us remember our purpose, and let us all cast our votes for a better future.



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel's Monthly Publication Published 10 times a year

Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach Rabbi Emeritus David H. Chanofsky Cantor Menachem Bazian Jonathan Meister, President

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Submissions to **The Seroll** are welcome and must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.



CANDLELIGHTING FOR... NOVEMBER 2020

Date	Light	Shabbat
	Candles	Ends

6	4:27	5:32
13	4:20	5:25
20	4:15	5:20
27	4:11	5:16



From the Editor...

ye noticed that our gas bill has slightly increased over the past number of months even though we haven't put

the heat on since May. The reason for this...I'm cooking more using the gas stove. We were not one for "eating out" as often as some of our friends and neighbors, however combining restrictions of the pandemic with Marvin's recuperation from surgery, we have had very little contact with the "outside world."

Mark Pfeffer's applesauce recipe which appears on page 10, gave me food for thought (pardon the pun). I'm always looking for something new to add to our menu of favorite dishes. I'd love to hear from you. Anyone who has a recipe to share with the congregation for a simple, easy dish please e-mail it to me and I would like to include it in a future **Scroll**.

Hoping to receive some mouth-watering recipes. (roberta@theliemans.com)

Roberta





Submissions for the December issue are due by November 20th. Please *promptly* send in any articles or flyers, via e-mail, to be included in the issue.--ED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Jonathan Meister

hul fatigue. It's a real thing. As far as I know, there is no vaccine available as of yet, no FDA approved treatment but over time it fades away. Its onset is usually right after Simchas Torah and it is brought on by attendance at services for many hours over the course of about a month. As to its symptoms, it usually shows itself by not coming to Shul on Saturdays for a few weeks and missing a few Monday and Thursday morning minyans. Unfortunately, the recovery for Shul fatigue is hampered by the current pandemic. A cure has not been developed, but the symptoms can be treated. That treatment is to stay the course, remain faithful to our beliefs as we always have and to continue to show the love and respect for each other as we always have. Slowly, more people will come back on Saturday mornings, more will come back to morning minyans.

Of course we are hampered by the current Covid-19 situation and frankly there is no end in sight. However, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and financial commitment to our Synagogue. Our Kol Nidre Appeal may be over and thank you to all who contributed and to those who still intend to contribute. Our numbers were slightly diminished but despite these difficult times, we still had a vibrant

campaign and came close to the numbers of last year.

As I have stated in the past, many will question as to why they should pay their dues, send in money to the Shul and while I cannot make that decision for you, I can provide this insight. We are members of our Synagogue because our Synagogue stands as a testament of our beliefs and because we know it is the right thing to do. While some may see the Shul as a source of social gathering, good times to be had amongst friends (and yes that is a part of it), the bottom line is that our Synagogue is there to fulfill a spiritual need in good times and especially in bad times. It is a great oasis of comfort for many, myself included, and it requires our support.

Shul fatigue is something we experience every year. However, in our Congregation it is simply a physical manifestation rather than a spiritual condition. Please continue to keep our Shul in your minds and hearts as we remain open for business. We don't have to go for any physical therapy or take any medication to recover. It will simply fade away and we hope to see everyone again whether out of some need or simply out of desire to return to our normal habit of being together in our Sanctuary.



Watch for Men's Club 2021Calendar Sweepstakes coming soon.

Remember...
ya gotta be in it,
to win it!

Condolences to...

Eric Dubbs on the loss of his beloved father, Seymour Dubbs.

Stanley Saunders and family on the loss of our congregant, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Glenda.

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian Masks

asks. We are all wearing them. There are all kinds: three-ply surgical, KN95, N95, cloth with and without filter), designer, bandana, etc. Masks are in nowadays. They're all the rage. You can even get designer masks now. Like a sports team? Get a mask with their name and logo. Supporting a candidate? They got masks too. Companies and unions are making up custom masks for their employees and members. Yep, everywhere you look someone is wearing some kind of mask. And, that's a good thing. In today's day of COVID, masks are a way to protect ourselves and others from the virus. But the masks we wear to cover our mouths and noses are not the only ones we wear. These are only the masks that are clearly visible, that we have only started wearing because of COVID and our need to protect ourselves and the ones we love. But, there are other masks we wear, that we wear all the time and have been wearing for as long as we can remember.

We wear masks so that we can show the "us" we want to show in any given situation. Think about it. Do you behave the same at home as you do in *Shul?* How about when you are at a wedding or another formal event? How would you act if you were meeting the governor of your state or the President of the United States? If you are like most people, you are always cognizant of your environment and your behavior adjusts accordingly. This is not being phony, this is basic human psychology. We all know that there are different standards of behavior, different expectations that depend on where we are, and we act accordingly. There is nothing wrong with that.

But it does raise a question. If we were to strip away our masks, who are we really? Do we really know? This is a really difficult question. I would wager that many of us are so used to our masks, and rely on them so much, that we may not know where the mask ends and where we begin. The masks become so much a part of us that, to a degree, we become the mask. But, who we really are never goes away and, sooner or later, the real us will show through.

Where am I going with this? Well, it seems to me that just like we get to choose the masks we wear, we can choose who we are underneath it all. That is the essence of what learning *Torah* is all about; using *The Scroll...4* Hashem's guidance to determine who

we are at the core and use that basis for all of our "situational" masks.



The *Talmud* teaches us (*Bava Batra*, 16a) "Job sought to exempt the world from judgement..." He said to G-d, "you created people who are righteous and who are wicked..." Job was telling G-d that he created us as we are. Since he is the programmer, and we are the computers, how can he blame us when we are acting according to his innate instructions? Job's friends answered that Hashem also created the Torah which is the means by which we may adjust our personalities, rework our behavioral core, and rise above our base programming.

But *Torah* is so huge, how can we ever really accomplish this herculean task? I will tell you that *Torah* is compared to an ocean: one can swim the ocean their entire lives and never reach the other side. But, and this has been my experience, whatever learning you can accomplish is to your benefit. I have rarely sat and learned and not walked away with something positive that I have been able to put to use in my everyday life. I cannot count the number of times I have quoted *Torah* to my Portuguese-American boss (who, I am sure, has Jewish DNA but that is another thing) to explain my approach to an issue.

In today's day and age, there are a plethora of sources that make Torah available and accessible to people with all levels of learning expertise. Mesorah Publications, the publishers of the Artscroll Torah Library, has produced a huge library of Sefarim and books that we can get at most Judaica stores [1]. We use their Siddurim and Chumashim at Shaarey Israel and they are excellent. Not only do they provide interesting and understandable commentary, the font they use in printing is very easy to read. (I'll let you in on a secret: during the High Holidays, I always use an Artscroll Machzor, as opposed to the Birnbaum used by the congregation, because the lettering is so much easier for me to read) Artscroll has complete sets of Chumashim with a wide variety of translated commentary, Mishnah, Talmud and much, much more.

There is a huge amount of material on line as well. Not just in the form of the printed word but in the form of audio and video lectures by great rabbis who can offer more insights than you can shake a stick

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

at. (I'll let you in on another secret: as Rabbi Weinbach and I were preparing for our COVID affected High Holiday services, we paid a lot of attention to response by Rabbi Herschel Schachter published on Yutorah.org.) There are great websites like Chabad.org, Aish.com and more available at the touch of a keyboard. One word of caution about learning Torah from online websites: check with the Rabbi before you rely on one to ensure that what you are watching comes from reliable sources. There are many websites out there that purport to teach Torah but are shills for proselytizing organizations like Jews for Jesus.

At Shaarey Israel, you have many opportunities to learn *Torah*. Rabbi Weinbach sends out emails and videos on *Torah* topics and offers a weekly class that is filled with fascinating insights. I have a weekly *Talmud* learning group that is both fun and, I hope, informative. (By the way, if you are interested in joining my *Talmud* learning group which currently meets virtually on Wednesday nights at 9:30, just email me at njchazzan@gmail.com and I will be glad to get you the Zoom link.)

Psychologists like to say that our personalities are fixed at an early age. If, by that, they mean that we stop growing, learning, and changing, I disagree with them. I may not have their degrees and certificates but I have seen how learning and being open to the ways of Torah can positively affect a person. We should never stop learning and growing. As King Solomon says, "The sum of the matter, when all is said and done: Revere God and observe His commandments! For this is the essence of mankind." (Eccl 12:13)

Postscript: This article will appear in the November issue of **The Scroll.** No doubt this year's Thanksgiving will look very different because of the restrictions we have to place on ourselves due to COVID. I have a few suggestions. First, you can use technology to virtually join with your family. Zoom, Google Meet, Skype and Whatsapp are just a few free technologies you can use to see your family and have a virtual Thanksgiving dinner. Second, while the restrictions are unpleasant, remember that they are both necessary and temporary. This pandemic will pass, as they all do, and life will find a new normal. In the meantime, try to emotionally isolate as little as

possible. No, I am not suggesting you go out and ignore COVID safeguards, but we do have more ways to stay in touch today than ever before. Use them. Reach out to your family, friends, congregation and community. There is a great deal of love out there, all you have to do is tap into it and add your own to it.

Chana and I wish you a happy Thanksgiving. Always remember, even in the midst of this pandemic, we still have much to be thankful for.

[1] Tuvia's, at the corner of route 59 and Spook Rock Road, is my favorite place. I mention them not to advertise for them but out of gratitude because they have been very kind to me in my efforts to learn at Shaarey Israel

Note: The opinions expressed in this article are mine and mine alone. Have a comment? Disagree with me? Please let me know. You can email me at: njChazzan@gmail.com.

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A Note from Rabbi Weinbach...

A reminder that we are broadcasting services six days a week in the morning and in the afternoon and that my weekly class will be broadcast Tuesday night at 7:00 on Zoom and Facebook Live. I am also pleased to be initiating a new course of study entitled "Mitzvah Moments", which will be sent to you several times a week with each installment covering one of the 613 Torah Commandments.

We will be conducting Shabbat services. If you intend to join us please let us know at CSICovidMinyan@gmail.com. Also while we welcome all of our congregants we remind you that the best medical advice is for persons over 65 not to attend.

Reach out to me with any concerns you may have in these difficult times; a good number of congregants have found this to be helpful. You can always reach me via email at RabbiWeinbachCSI@gmail.com or on my cell phone at 845-770-4191.

SISTERHOOD MESSAGE President Audrey Meister

Sisterhood is not a destination but a journey. You get lasting friendships once you are a member.

Here we are already in the month of November. The Jewish High Holidays and Sukkot are in the past. Thank you to our Rabbi and Cantor for making them joyful in this time of Covid-19.

November is Sisterhood's time of the year to thank all of you who have paid your dues (\$36). If you haven't done it yet, it's not too late. In lieu of a Paid-up Membership Dinner, all paid up members will receive in the mail a special surprise. Remember how special our Pandemic survival kit was...this next mailing will be even more special!

Our fundraising continues. Shoprite cards are available in the office or through Evie Maher. If you need something from the gift shop. give Louisa a call. Pick up at CSI can be arranged. Contact Esther Ingber for donation cards. Supporting your Sisterhood allows us to support CSI!!!

L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim (Next Year In Jerusalem) evokes a common theme in Jewish Culture of a desire to return to a rebuilt Jerusalem (for those in the Diaspora). It is said at the end of Yom Kippur and the Passover Seder. *Bashana Haba'ah (Next Year)* is a 1970 song by the lyricist Ehud Maiamon, with music by Nurit Hirsh. In the *Times* of Israel, the Israeli singer Shiri Maimon offers a potent cover of this Israeli classic, for the time of this pandemic:

In the year that will be ... we'll sit out on our porches

Counting migrating birds as they fly And the children will run between the houses and the fields

Playing catch under cloudless blue skies.

Chorus:

Come with me, you will see
Just how sweet life will be
in the year, in the year that will be.
Come with me, you will see
Just how sweet life will be
in the year, in the year that I see.

Dark red grapes on the vine will ripen til the evening,

Then bring the chill of the night to our plates And the soft wind will blow a cloud of old newspaper

Bearing news that is long out of date.

Chorus

In the year that will be ... we'll spread our hands before us

Gathering light that will dazzle our eyes A white heron will spread her perfect wings above us

And between them the new sun will rise ...

Chorus

Wishing you all a Happy Healthy Safe Year!!!

Audrey



Even the pandemic couldn't keep Sisterhood from Fundraising. Thanks to Julie our New Year's Greetings helped the Congregation feel more connected.

We're busy planning activities for a time when the situation will allow. One of our ideas is to offer a Defensive Driving Class.

For sure we'll continue to put the FUN into FUNdraising.

Dale Smith

MEN'S CLUB MESSAGE Mark Pfeffer, President

en's Club hopes you are well and were able to celebrate the High Holidays with us. Wishing each of you a healthy, safe, and fruitful New Year with some joy in these difficult times.

First off, I would like to thank the men who came out and supported the Men's Club by sending in their Membership Dues (see end of this article). We hope to increase our membership, even though it is a difficult year. It is greatly appreciated. Let this be a gentle reminder to those who might not have sent in their \$36 dues. Your ideas, your thoughts, and your comments are valuable and helpful. They are greatly appreciated to help make the Men's Club a successful organization.

The Men's Club greatly thanks Rabbi Weinbach and Cantor Bazian for conducting synagogue services on the High Holidays, as well as Succot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, during these trying times. Thanks to Edwin and Chanel for insuring that the Succah was put up. We also wish to thank Jennifer and Peggy for maintaining contact with everyone and keeping the building and office functioning. Red gets a special commendation for being available for maintaining so many aspects our synagogue. Attending services is different and not as satisfying with so many beautiful melodies missing, and many of the people we enjoy seeing are not present, and we hope things return to "normal" with regular services soon, yet we must continue forward for the present time.

Our Annual Calendar Sweepstakes will begin soon. Watch for the entry blanks which will be arriving shortly. For every \$10 investment you receive a number which gives you the opportunity to be included in a daily drawing for a cash prize (Shabbos and holidays excluded). Marv and Red run this event and will be glad to accept your donation. The money collected from the Annual Calendar Sweepstakes gets returned to the Shul as a major portion of our yearly commitment.

Currently we are looking for people interested in participating in Zoom programs to talk about various aspects of Jewish traditions and cultures that were common wherever they happened to have grown up. Bronx customs, and Brooklyn customs, may be very much different than Israeli customs, Iranian customs, or the customs of Eastern European countries. Talking about the various customs of our congregants may make for an interesting Sunday Evening Men's Club Zoom Get-together. Men's Club will push to put this together in the upcoming weeks. A few men from the Shul have been getting together to talk about current events, but as the weather gets colder this may have to be curtailed.

Our Master Gardeners, Bob & Diane. are working on putting together a Zoom meeting to discuss how to grow herbs indoors. Amazon has a home indoor herb gardening kit which looks easy and would be satisfying and economical. The exact day for scheduling this Zoom program is anticipated to be available towards the end of November. Be on the look-out for exact details.

Men's Club Members as of 10/26/2020:

Red Avner	Mitchell Kellman
Al Bernstein	Larry Koreen
Herman Berzon	Lenny Kroog
Paul Chaitin	Marv Lieman
David Cohen	Mel Math
Mitch Egenberg	Joe Moskovic
Sam Farber	Jeffrey Nulman
Edward Folb	Mark Pfeffer
Gary Forman	Jay Safier
Sand Fried	Stanley Saunders
Lewis G;amtz	Norton Smith
Marty Goldstein	David Stein
Howard Gulker	Jules Stern
Marty Ingber	Al Weiner
Morty Julius	Bill Weissman
Steven Kahan	



CHAI LIGHTS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Eden Amona Sara Koreen Harry Meister



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20 Harry & Sonia Kaner

20 Yoel & Chana Braver

22 Stanley & Tobi Weisel

27 Dr. Myron & Barbara Bloch

RHODA BLOOM KOSHER FOOD PANTRY

Call Sandra Chaitin 845-727-4199





Thank You...

I would like to take this time to sincerely thank those who have sent cards, messages, donations and texts over the last month. Your words have meant a lot to me as I mourn the loss of my beloved husband, Sy. I apologize for not responding to each message personally but please know that each note and call brought me comfort during this difficult time.

Mimi Marenberg



Join morning and evening prayers on Facebook
8am and 6:45pm.

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Contact: Esther Ingber @354-3787

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Leonard and Dorothy Kroog

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The following people will be happy to accept your donation to one of our many funds

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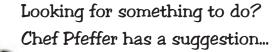
Mark Pfeffer



Sisterhood regrets the omission of the following names from this year's

New Year's Greetings: The Egenberg Family Mark Pfeffer and Family Arlene Schlifkin

We regret this error and hope to do better next year.



As we get further into autumn, here is a suggestion of something you might be interested in doing before the cold weather arrives and we must shelter in place within our own homes. All of the local supermarkets have apples in abundant supply, and it's economical to purchase a large bag of your favorite apples. If you are adventurous you might want to consider going out to one of

the orchards and picking your own apples. Calling prior to going is suggested, as the farm or orchard, may be restricting how many people can come at any one time. They may not wish to be over crowded, and a telephone call will insure you will be able to get in without being disappointed. It's a fun outing to do with children or grandchildren.

Once the apples are bought, I'd like to recommend an excellent recipe for making apple sauce. This applesauce is sugar free and delicious. First simply wash the apples, peel and core, fitting as many as you can fit unto a stock pot filled with water and cook on a low flame for 3 to 4 hours. Check and stir after 2 hours. Periodically check until all the apples are mush. Let cool to room temperature and run the apples through a foley food mill. If you are into canning you can use Ball jars. If you are not interested in the extra cost you can get 32 oz. plastic containers and freeze some or all of what you produce. It will stay in the fridge for 3-5 weeks. If you have a deep freezer it will last for at least 8-10 months. A favorite flavor comes from a 50/50 mix of

Empire and Fuji apples. Other good combinations come from Empire/ McIntosh or McCoun/Empire. No additives are needed. *Good luck*.

SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION SHAAREY ISRAEL

Dear Women of Congregation Shaarey Israel

We invite you to join Sisterhood and become a member of one of the most important arms of our congregation.

As a member you have the opportunity to make an impact on the synagogue while making new friends, learning new things and participating in Sisterhood Activities, all without the non-member surcharge. Along with all the activities we currently support, we continue to look for new programs to provide more value to our synagogue and our members. If you have an idea you would like us to pursue, please make sure to speak with us.

Dues remain \$36, except for new synagogue members who receive a year's membership free as part of their introductory package. Your dues package automatically includes the Paid-Up Membership Dinner in November where old friends meet again and new friends are made.

Please return the cut off with your dues check! Sisterhood can no longer accept credit card charges for any sisterhood functions. Check, cash or money order only.

We look forward to seeing all the women of the congregation join us to support CSI and each other.

Julie Feldman, Financial Secretary	Evie Maher, Chairman, Membership	Audrey Meister, President, Sisterhood
	return with your \$36 annual dues dman to CSI at 18 Montebello Rd, I	
Name		
Home phone:	Cell Phone	:
Email Address:		



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Men's Club

First let me thank all who already sent in their Men's Club dues for this year. We need you and if you have not already done so, please send in your dues of \$36 at this time. Red Avner is waiting by his mailbox to receive it.

The Men' Club, with Mark Pfeffer as its president, has done numerous things for CSI. We are here to support our shul and the community.

During these tough times we are all looking forward to getting together to socialize and pray but only when it is safe to do so.

We wish all at Shaarey Israel a Happier and Healthier New Year 5781.

Please complete this form and send your \$36 dues check payable to: Congregation Shaarey Israel Men's Club (please note in the memo Men's Club Dues)

Send to Red Avner 18 Milford Lane, NY 10901

Name —	
Address	
Phone ————	E-mail————



Are you interested in joining a book discussion group?

If you are interested please call: Bobbie Goldstein 201-746-0723 or

Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298



Join morning and evening prayers on Facebook 8am and 6:45pm.





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Include the recipient's name and address, the
occasion for the tree
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phone: (845) 352-3102

gatesofzioncemetery@gmail.com



May all the good things of life be yours, not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the coming year.