



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

*The Traditional Synagogue of
Rockland County and Northern New Jersey*

VOL. LXXI, NO. 2

OCTOBER 2020

TISHREI-CHESHVAN 5781

Come by the back of our synagogue and you'll see a different sight than usual. At this time of year our volunteers and staff have put up our Sukkah, that outdoor dwelling which reminds us of our travels in the desert and how God protected us throughout. What's different this year is that with Covid restrictions on everyone's mind, one of the walls of the Sukkah has been left open to allow greater air circulation.

Before anyone panics, not to worry: this is acceptable in Jewish law. Remarkably you can build a Sukkah with four walls, three walls or even 2 ½ walls. Skipping over the details for now, our three-walled Sukkah is kosher! I would like to suggest that in this particular year it is also symbolic.

The Sukkah is symbolic of how God encircles for the Jewish people and protects them. But in this year so many of our congregants and family cannot be with us inside the circle. Yet while we might be missing their company, the Sukkah still stands. Despite our difficulty and despite our losses, the Sukkah still stands. Despite so many of our coreligionists who are completely unaware of the holiday, the Sukkah stands, encircles and includes. We build a Sukkah so that everyone - engaged or not,

present or not - can be under the canopy of our traditions.

The theme of unifying even Jews who are not engaged or not present is reflected in the lulav and esrog as well. As we have explained in these pages previously, each of the four species can be viewed as symbolic of a different type of

Jew, ranging from the esrog that represents the Jew fully engaged and fully connected to tradition to the willow branches representing Jews not engaged at all and even disconnected. We take all of these four

types of Jews and bind them together, including all Jews as we pray for a year of blessing and health.

Our Sukkot holiday will be another opportunity for us to reflect, upon the many blessings that we have, upon our desire to include all Jews in our aspirations for personal and religious growth, and to be mindful yet again that our congregation will continue to do everything we can to include each of us in the beauty of our congregational life. Even if you will be physically absent, when our thoughts and hearts are together nothing is missing at all.

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

Nothing is Missing At All



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel's
Monthly Publication
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Submissions to **The Scroll** are welcome and must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.



CANDLELIGHTING FOR...

OCTOBER 2020

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
2	6:18	7:23
9	6:06	7:11
16	5:55	7:00
23	5:45	6:50
30	5:36	6:41

Sukkot begins Friday evening, October 2
Hoshanah Rabah October 9
Shemini Atzeret October 10
Simchat Torah October 11



From the Editor...

How strange the High Holidays were for us this year! I cannot remember a Rosh Hashonah nor a Yom Yippur without attending services at synagogue. This year, unfortunately, was quite different. For us there was no attending services, nor was there the large family dinners over the holiday. Our house, and my heart, was empty.

Thanks to Rabbi Weinbach and Cantor Bazian for putting together the "holiday kit" and having it distributed to those of us who were not partaking in the services at the synagogue. The "kits" helped us in feeling we belonged. We followed along in the prayer books and also enjoyed the times when we were able to Zoom into the allowable portions of the service.

Our wish for the New Year: *is we should all be healthy and together in the sanctuary at Shaarey Israel where we belong for 5782.*

Roberta



Submissions for the November issue are due by October 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

We have just experienced a Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur the likes of which our Congregation has never seen before and hopefully will never see again. Having said that I want everyone to know that despite the difficulties, it was inspiring. Yes, I said that. Why? Because despite the fact that we were separated physically, mentally, spiritually as a Congregation, our Rabbi and Cantor presided over services in our building and gave us a huge uplift for those that could attend, including myself. Sure it wasn't the service we were used to but the fact that we had services at all was remarkable. Standing in the parking lot on the second day of Rosh HaShanah, seeing people (socially distanced), who may not have been close to our building in six months, turn out to hear the Shofar was a moment of pride in our Congregation and I also want to thank Dan Kwilecki for his annual contribution to the High Holidays with shofar blowing like no other.

We are in unprecedented times and uncharted waters for the world and particularly the Jewish people. Prior to Covid, we were focused on rising anti-semitism in the community and the world at large which still has not gone away and

in fact is still on the rise. Yet, we persist. We opened our doors for the holidays, we wore masks, we Purrelled, we sat "socially distant", we stood behind a wood and Plexiglass partition to kiss the Torah if we had an aliyah (thank you Marsel), and we made do. For all of this I am proud of our Congregation and our religious leadership.

Do I have a lot of answers? No. However, one thing I know is that for the last six months we have been in this together, we are pulling through and we will continue to do so because that is what we are made of. Services will continue as before, our Rabbi and Cantor will be there for you, Peggy and Jennifer are there to assist you, Edwin and Chanel with pride and dedication take care of our beloved building because that is our mission as a Congregation.

Hopefully the situation will improve and there will be programming, greater attendance at services and the ability for us all to be together. The Rabbi said it perfectly as we concluded Neilah services on Yom Kippur. We say "*Next Year in Jerusalem*" but we also say "*Next Year together at Congregation Shaarey Israel.*" 

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

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

Condolences to...

The family of our long time member,
Lenore Schlissel.

Lois Bashoff and family on the loss of her
beloved husband, Allen Bashoff.

Mimi Marenberg on the loss of her beloved
husband, Sy.

Jonathan Kaufman on the loss of his beloved
father, Fred.

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian It's More than Stones

DER CHAZZAN'S
CH' MAREH

The building looked old. I would have to guess that it was more than 100 years old. I had to climb three flights of stairs. The walls had clearly not seen a wet paintbrush in decades. The paint had clearly been peeling off although all the flaking paint had been cleaned away. The concrete steps were sturdy but showed their age. They too had not been painted in decades.

When I reached the third floor, a sign pointed me to a huge open space. I paced it out and it measured approximately 125 x 250 feet. It was clearly a former factory floor although I am betting it had not served that purpose in a very long time. For all I know, this may have been the site of a former sweatshop from the early 20th century.

Its purpose on this day was much different.

Just inside the doorway stood a table with High Holiday *Machzorim* on it. Most of the floor had been cordoned off with large white sheets creating artificial walls. Within those walls were chairs, tables, and everything one needed to hold a *Minyan*.

It was *Shabbat Shuva* and I had a weekend off. I decided to attend this *Minyan* because it was closest to my house and the *Shul* that was renting the space used to be the *Shul* I went to regularly. Of course, the Rabbi has changed and I did not know most of the people anymore, but I knew some of the congregants and it was good to see the old friends.

As I participated in the service, I was struck by two things. The first was the stark contrast between these stark quarters with makeshift walls and air conditioning ducts suspended from the ceiling and our incredibly beautiful sanctuary at Shaarey Israel. Second, despite the COVID-inspired, sparse location, the *Ruach* (spirit) in the room was amazing. Everyone wore masks and the sheer immenseness of the room made social distancing a breeze. All that was left, was for the service to follow as it has amongst Jews for centuries.

History has taught us that Jews have celebrated and prayed in all kinds of places.

Pictures exist of the residents of the Warsaw Ghetto baking *matzah* in that Nazi created hellhole. Jews prayed in Auschwitz. In fact, there exists copies of handwritten prayer books for the High Holidays that were written in Auschwitz by those who knew the prayers for those who did not. Throughout the millennia, we Jews have found ways to practice our faith regardless of our conditions.

Did you hear about Congregation Adas Israel of Duluth, MN? You may have heard the story. It was the last Orthodox congregation in Duluth, MN and it burned down this past year. I was the Cantor there for seven High Holiday seasons. I used to love to go downstairs into the basement sanctuary, the equivalent of our "small sanctuary" at Shaarey Israel, and browse through their incredible collection of ancient Hebrew books. I discovered two books I wish I could have taken with me: two *Siddurim*, one from World War I and one from World War II, that were issued to Jewish servicemen by the United States Army for use in the field. I remember the picture in my mind of Jewish servicemen in the trenches in France, dealing with all kinds of horrible conditions, and still taking the time to put on their *Tefillin* and say their prayers. I think of Jewish servicemen on Okinawa fighting the Japanese and still taking time out to say their prayers.

These heroes, the servicemen who fought with weapons and the prisoners in the ghettos and concentration camps who fought with their will and determination, kept their faith in the most heinous of conditions.

I thought of all that just a scant two weeks ago. And I was reminded of something I have known for a long time: a building, no matter how beautifully architected and built, regardless of the materials used in its construction, is not a *Shul* without the people who pray in it.

Our facilities at Shaarey Israel are incredibly beautiful. There are times when I stand in our incomparable

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

sanctuary and am amazed at the love and care that went into building that edifice. And yet, for one relatively short *Shabbat* morning service, I was as happy as I have been while reciting my prayers on a former factory floor.

Please do not get me wrong. I much prefer to *daven* in a beautiful building. But, it isn't the building that makes us a *Shul*. You do. Your attendance, your participation, your caring: these are the things that make Shaarey Israel a truly great place. Without you, the beautiful building is just that: a beautiful building made of beautiful materials. Put differently, the building may be the body of the congregation but you make up its soul.

Sukkot starts tomorrow night and we still live in the shadow of COVID. It has kept so many of us away from *Shul* for good reasons. Never forget, though, that we miss you. Even the building misses you for, without you, it has no purpose.

So, for those of you who cannot make it to *Shul*, we understand. We want you safe and we would prefer to wait than rush you back. Your well being is paramount. But know this: you are part of the soul of Shaarey Israel, and a soul does not require a body. You add to who we are, right where you are. You can still reach out and support your community, you can still be a member of this congregation, you can still attend our virtual services. Your absence from the building is felt but you are part of what makes us who we are. Never forget that. I know that we never do.

Chana and I would like to you wish all of you a truly *Chag Sameach!*

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

Why Sisterhood? You get lasting friendships once you are a member.

Summer is over, our month of celebrating the High Holidays is almost past. Everything this year has been different, but we have seen it through! Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year 5781.

I want to thank all of you who have sent in your dues this year!! It's not too late. Hopefully by 2021 things will start getting back to a new normal. We will be able to plan in person get togethers for fun fundraising (Bingo, movie nights) as well as future paid-up membership dinners and donor dinners.

New Years greetings was successful. Thank you Julie for handling this. Shoprite cards are available all year round. They are available in the office from Peggy or from Evie Maher. Esther Ingber can send out donations cards. The gift shop has beautiful Judaica and hand-made masks and head coverings. Many thanks to Louisa for stocking and creating the masks and head coverings. Sisterhood flyers can be found in the weekly Shabbos notes and the monthly **Scrolls.**

THERE IS STRENGTH IN SISTERHOOD.
WE HELP EACH OTHER AND THE
SYNAGOGUE COMMUNITY!

P.S. As I have said at the beginning 2020 has been a very unusual and trying year. Much of our synagogue life has been online, (meetings, services, classes). This is an excerpt of an article that appeared in *Time* magazine by Kathy Steinmetz. It was in reference to a book by Gretchen McCulloch "Because Internet" understanding the New Rules of Language.

Old-Internet people... are techies who went on line to socialize with strangers before the web had gone mainstream.

Full-Internet people... got online in the late 90's to connect with others they already knew from the physical world.

Semi-Internet people... linked up around 2000 but primarily for work—they are less enthusiastic about socializing over the web.

Pre-Internet people... are an older cohort who were compelled to get online by pictures of grandkids.

Post-Internet people... take it for granted that the web is social, having no memory of life before it.

Non-Internet people... boldly refuse to get online, despite the webs ubiquity.

To which category are you? I fit in some where on the bottom, but I feel a phone call once in a while instead of written accepted abbreviations and emojis is more satisfying!



**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

Interesting Advice on Coronavirus submitted by Bob Burton

A voice of reason, Dr. Bonnie Henry is the Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia, the first woman in this position. She is also an associate professor at the University of British Columbia. She has a background in epidemiology and is a specialist in public health and preventive medicine.

The Wisdom of Dr. Bonnie Henry

1. We may have to live with COVID-19 for months or years. Let's not deny it or panic. Let's not make our lives useless. Let's learn to live with this fact.
2. You can't destroy COVID-19 viruses that have penetrated cell walls, by drinking gallons of hot water you'll just go to the bathroom more often.
3. Washing hands and maintaining a two-meter physical distance is the best method for your protection.
4. If you don't have a COVID-19 patient at home, there's no need to disinfect the surfaces at your house
5. Packaged cargo, gas pumps, shopping carts and ATMs do not cause infection. If you wash your hands, live your life as usual.
6. COVID-19 is not a food infection. It is associated with drops of infection like the flu. There is no demonstrated risk that COVID-19 is transmitted by food.
7. You can lose your sense of smell with a lot of allergies and viral infections. This is only a non-specific symptom of COVID-19.
8. Once at home, you don't need to change clothes urgently and go shower! Purity is a virtue, paranoia is not!
9. COVID-19 virus doesn't hang in the air for long. It is a respiratory droplet infection that requires close contact.
10. The air is clean, you can walk through gardens and parks (just keeping your physical protection distance).
11. It is sufficient to use normal soap against COVID-19, not antibacterial soap. This is a virus, not a bacteria.
12. You don't have to worry about your food orders. But you can heat it all up in the microwave, if you wish.
13. The chances of bringing COVID-19 home with your shoes is like being struck by lightning twice in a day. I've been working against viruses for 20 years — drop infections don't spread like that!
14. You can't be protected from the virus by taking vinegar, sugarcane juice and ginger! These are for immunity not a cure.
15. Wearing a mask for long periods interferes with your breathing and oxygen levels. Wear it only in crowd.
16. Wearing gloves is a bad idea; virus can accumulate into glove and easily transmitted if you touch your face. Better to wash your hands regularly. Immunity is greatly weakened by always staying in a sterile environment. Even if you eat immune boosting foods, leave your house regularly to any park/beach. Immunity is increased by EXPOSURE TO PATHOGENS, not by sitting at home and consuming fried, spicy, sugary foods and aerated drinks.
Be smart and stay informed! Live life sensibly and to the fullest. Be kind, be calm and be safe!



CHAI LIGHTS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joshua Bekker
Danielle Cohen
Ezardan Koreen
Sara Rose Koreen
James Polovsky
Haley Tokarski



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

14 Jeff & Pamela Zwiebel
23 Al & Elaine Bernstein
23 Jonathan & Beth Meister
27 Steve & Jamie Dranow

Mazel tov to...

Ann & Dr. Bill Klein on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Jacob Mika Klein.



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

Thank You...

I personally wish to thank everyone who called, made donations and prayed for my speedy recovery from the stroke I suffered.

I am happy to report that I am making progress and I am on the road to recovery and hope to be with all of you in shul upon its reopening, hopefully very soon. I also want to thank Rabbi Weinbach and Cantor Bazian for praying to Hashem for me. I am sure Hashem heard all of your prayers, hence my progress.

Many thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Paul Donath



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\$4.00 for Esther to mail one for you

Contact: Esther Ingber
@354-3787

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Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial Scholarship Fund



The High Holiday season will begin in mid-September. Our **Annual Kol Nidre Appeal** begins now. This is Congregation Shaarey Israel's Annual Fundraiser to support its programs. We hope everyone will consider donating at a higher level than you did last year.

We are excited about starting a New Year together and the future of our Congregation. The monies we raise support the upkeep of our Synagogue and the many programs offered to our Congregation.

Our beautiful, uniquely designed Kol Nidre Board adjacent to the Sanctuary will list the names of the donors. Should you wish to donate anonymously your request will be honored.

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy 5781.

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

DONOR LEVELS

DIAMOND (\$1800 and above)
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KOL NIDRE APPEAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ DONATION _____

I WISH TO DONATE ANONYMOUSLY _____

Send your check to: **Congregation Shaarey Israel, 18 Montebello Road, Montebello NY 10901** and indicate Kol Nidre Appeal in the memo.


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Sponsor
(\$18 and above)

Donors as of 10/2/2020

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

Please complete this form and return with your \$36 annual dues to:

ATT: SISTERHOOD/ Julie Feldman to CSI at 18 Montebello Rd, Montebello, NY 10901

Name _____

Home phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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Call: Louisa DePaola 845-533-4069 louisad10964@gmail.com

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 _____





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

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**Check for \$12 per tree made out to
CSI Sisterhood.
Include the recipient's name and address, the
occasion for the tree
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