



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

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

VOL. LXX, NO. 9

MAY 2020

IYAR-SIVAN 5780

Most of us have had more time on our hands lately. If the weather were better I would finally clean out my garage but it's been difficult to string together two good days of weather, so I have focused on other long-neglected areas of my home. One such area, the second drawer of my night table, provided an opportunity for celebration and reflection; that is where I store my kippot (skullcaps).

My overgrown collection comes in all shapes and sizes. There are the really large ones to keep my head warm in the winter, there are several that reflect the color and diversity of the state of Israel, plenty from weddings, bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs and more than a few from Jewish community events. (Morty, Anita and Joyce – if you're wondering where all the kippot from the dinner went - I somehow ended up with five of them! Sorry.) Two other noteworthy entrants are the kippah that is so large I wouldn't wear it anymore and the one that is so small that I wonder how I ever wore it.

My basic rotation of kippot consists of three: the one I wear to work, the one I wear at home and the one I wear at home when it's cold. I occasionally wear two or three of the other ones. That left about 20 kippot looking for a new home. I've decided to display a number of them in my office, thereby killing a second bird with the same stone because I have a couple of open shelves to fill.

What does my drawer of kippot say to me?

Then over the course of my life, and perhaps over the course of all of our lives, we not only change

styles; we go through stages. Certainly, for someone who wears theirs in public a kippah is more than a demonstration of style; it is often a statement or advertisement of religiosity. In each situation the choice was right for then, although the chosen kippah did change over time. I've used large black velvet kippot to communicate my newfound enthusiasm for

Judaism in my 20s, wore a medium-sized knit but black kippah for one job, colorful knit ones for another. Changing over time is something we all need to do; keeping every kippah for the last 30 years is not!

And so my drawer is more streamlined than it has ever been. It still reflects the diversity of who I am as a Jew in the many different environments in which I need to appear wearing a kippah (or a baseball cap). As for the rest, some will be displayed in my office and some will be respectfully disposed of (most especially the pastel silk ones!). As with all purging of material things my life will be better for losing some of my excess stuff, and the process has given me a sense of perspective not only about my tendency to over-collect but also about the many transitions and stages that we all go through. I know we all are looking forward to our next simcha together; I hope the kippah is nice!

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

Reflections On My Kippah Drawer



The Scroll

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

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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...

MAY 2020

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
1	7:36	8:41
8	7:43	8:48
15	7:50	8:55
22	7:57	9:02
29	8:03	9:08



From the Editor...

Let's look for something good in this horrible time.

As is custom, the June issue of **The Scroll** lists the names of members' graduates. My definition of graduate encompasses those involved in moving on from pre-school to having completed post-doctoral studies.

During this time we know that moving up exercises, graduation ceremonies and proms will be cancelled in order to adhere to the socially distancing rules, which is a necessary step in order to curb the spread of this vicious virus. We can all empathize with the students' disappointment but better play safe.

The Scroll is available for you to share your graduate's achievement. Please e-mail to me (roberta@theliemans.com) their names and information and it will appear in our next issue.

Stay in touch with friends and loved ones, it makes the days go quicker and it is a mitzvah. Be well.

Roberta

I'm sad for the world.



Submissions for the June issue are due by May 10th. Please **promptly** send in any articles or flyers, via e-mail, to be included in the issue.--ED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan Meister

Some people dream of Jeannie, I dream of shul. Yes, in this most difficult of times we look forward to better days and think about those things that make us happy, give us fulfillment and one of those things is shul. It's hard to imagine that something so routine, now seems so distant. Yet, we are doing our best as a Congregation to stay together. Whether it be individuals calling each other, our Clergy conducting twice daily prayer services on Facebook, daily classes on line from the Rabbi, we are making the best of it and we will continue in this vain for now but things will get better.

People ask me all of the time what is happening with the building? Are Edwin and Chanel still working? What about Peggy and Jennifer? The answer to this is everyone is managing. While we are all not physically in contact, the normal communications continue. I speak to Peggy almost every day, Edwin and Chanel have the building in tip top shape, Jennifer makes sure the bills get paid, the Rabbi and I and the Chazzan are in touch sometimes five times a day. And as usual, our guardian angel, Red Avner, watches over the building every day, whether he is in the parking lot for his daily walk (which people join him six feet apart) or to call vendors and remind them to do their jobs.

I will say that the hallmark of our shul, the human kindness which we exhibit towards each other remains steadfast. There has been tragedy no doubt but as usual, members of the Congregation rise up to offer comfort to those suffering and to each other and the congregation at large. Our Clergy as always, is ever present and ever helpful and without them the Congregation couldn't exist. We should be proud of ourselves as a Congregation because in this time of darkness we have maintained our dignity and humanity.

As we go forward, we will continue to think of ways to be together, hopefully for joyous occasions even if remotely. With the help of the Chazzan, this past Friday, the Kiddush Club, sometimes referred to as "the boys in the

back" held a virtual L'Chaim before Kabbalat Shabbat. I can't tell you how nice it was to raise a glass together, and while some may not approve, the fact that it was as raucous as ever, albeit on line, was a bit of comfort and a sign of hope and that is what we need .

We will be together again in our beautiful building and we will find a way to do so safely and securely. Rabbi and I talk about this all of the time in our constant daily calls. We talk about Shavuot, hoping that will be a time of renewal, we have even talked already about the High Holidays and how we are going to make that happen.

My most important message to you all, is to be safe and healthy and continue the acts of kindness that I know you have all exhibited and all of the good thoughts. Soon there will not be a need for a "zoom kiddush club" but we will all raise a glass and say L'Chaim together at 18 Montebello Road. Be well.



**Please note that this is an
abbreviated issue of
The Scroll.**

**Time-sensitive material has been
eliminated.**

**G-d willing the future will be brighter
and we will return to normal soon.**

Condolences to...

Eileen and Jeffrey Pollack on the loss of their beloved son, Adam.

Ditza and Bill Bradin and Sam Bradin on the loss of their beloved son and grandson, Yoni.

Marsha Deutch Eisenberg on the loss of her beloved husband, Jack Eisenberg.

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian Searching for the Light

DER CHAZZAN'S
CH' MAREH

One thing about being a Torah-learning Jew: you learn about the history of our people and about our trials and tribulations. Not everyone goes beyond the *Tanakh* and *Talmud* but I decided to many years ago and have read extensively on many subjects regarding our history, with many more topics on my list of areas to explore. One thing you learn quickly, though, is that we are no strangers to tragedy. We have been through wars, pogroms, a Holocaust, epidemics, pandemics, you name it. We have been through it and come through the other side.

There is one thing, though, that they do not tell you when you read the books, watch the documentaries and listen to the lectures: learning about something and living through it are two very different things. I have always known, on an intellectual level, that no amount of learning about the Holocaust could bring even the slightest hint of an understanding of what living through it was like. One survivor commented to me about the movie *Schindler's List* that it was the best portrayal he had seen, but it was not 1% of what reality was. I understood what he said but, in a more important way, I had no clue.

Even with today's pandemic raging throughout the world, I cannot imagine what it was like to live during the flu pandemic of 1918 where 50 million people died. It's a different age. Medicine and technology are different. We have more information than they did. One could argue we have too much information and too little of it accurate but that is a topic for another day. Despite my lack of understanding of what they went through, I can say this: I think I have a little bit better of an appreciation for it.

One of the consequences of being in quarantine and isolation, though, is that you have too much time to think. I have kept a close eye on developments with the pandemic, of course, but also of the tragedies that occur around us every day. Not a day goes by that my phone does not ring with the death of one or another member of the Jewish community. Some are people I know. Some are community Rabbis and leaders. And some from my family, both close family and my extended family at Shaarey Israel. It has been difficult some days to be able to see beyond the darkness and perceive the light.

As I write this, I have a nephew sitting *shiva* for his father, a *mechutan* sitting *shiva* for his mother and a dear friend, an adopted brother really, about to bury his son. All of this occurred within the last 10 days or so. That does not include the condolence calls to friends within my home community in Passaic or to members of Shaarey Israel. It has been a very trying time.

I came to a decision last night. I decided I was not going to let the darkness win. It is there, and it will probably be there for too much longer, but I have a choice as to how I am going to deal with it. I thought long and hard and I came to a few, simple, conclusions.

First, I believe in G-d. Not only that he exists but, as the *Talmud* quotes *Rabbi Akiva* as saying, "All that *Hashem* does, he does for good." It is impossible to see the good in what is going on around us right now but our lack of perception does not mean that it is not there. Who knows what *Hashem* has planned and how the events of today will affect the course of the world in the future? I have stated before that I believe that the creation of the State of Israel, that the UN voted to allow the Jewish people a state, was a direct result of the Holocaust. I do not say that is a *justification* for six million dead, I only say that I believe that it was the global shock over the Holocaust that caused a mere nanosecond of compassion for the Jewish people and resulted in the historic UN vote on partition of the mandate that led to the declaration of the state.

Who knows what seeds are being planted while this virus rages? What new cures or medical technology may be created as a result that could save millions? What new political awareness might come of this? I could speculate all day but the fact is I have no clue where the light in this darkness is. But, that does not stop me from knowing that it exists. It exists and, in G-d's own time, he will make it known to us.

For now, the question is simple: How do we navigate these waters and stay healthy, both physically and emotionally, during this time? Well, I will not address the physical. We all know about social distancing, hygiene and the like. But emotionally, psychologically and spiritually, that, I think, I can

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

make a suggestion about. You see, when I have a headache, I take Tylenol. That's my prescribed treatment for that ailment. When someone is in emotional pain, I believe that love and caring are the prescription. Put even more simply: we can get through this emotionally, psychologically and spiritually, by giving of ourselves to others. By making that extra phone call, video chat, Facebook message or post, we perhaps can try to help bring some light to the darkness that surrounds. Love trumps pain and we have to cultivate love by the bushel and share it. A trouble shared is a trouble halved: a joy shared is a joy doubled. Now, more than ever, we need to take the time to reach those of us for whom the darkness is a palpable, physical thing. We cannot force others to see the light but by offering of ourselves, we give them more of an opportunity to become aware of it. Additionally, when we share our love with others, we don't use it up: we increase it.

I hope you all know that when we have *Shabbat* or *Yom Tov* services, the services are preceded by a *Talmud* learning group that meets one hour before services. We have been doing this for years. When we had to suspend services due to the pandemic, we began leaning in the evening using Zoom. These get together, whether in person or virtual, are not only intellectual exercises: it is a group of people sharing their time with one another and it is almost like a family get together. We talk, laugh, learn, argue and, in general, have a great time. Just recently, we finished the tractate of *Rosh Hashana* and have started a new one, *Taanis*. If you would like to join us via Zoom, just pop me an email. Give me your cell number (and install WhatsApp on your phone if you don't have it) and I will add you to our chat list and you will be welcome.

Until we see each other again in person, please stay safe and well. Know that our love goes out to you. Reach out to us if you need... trust me when I tell you, you will not be a burden: that's why *Hashem* has placed us on this earth.

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

Are you interested in
joining a
book discussion group?



If you are interested please RSVP to:
Bobbie Goldstein 201-746-0723 or
Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298



**Check for \$12 per tree made out to
CSI Sisterhood.**

**Include the recipient's name and address, the
occasion for the tree
and the sender of the tree.**

**Send all this to:
Roberta Lieman
4312 Warrens Way,
Wanaque, NJ 07465
or call 973-706-5176**

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SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

President Audrey Meister

TOUGH TIMES MAY PASS, OUR SISTERHOOD WILL LAST!

Spring has sprung! As the weather is changing so have we all through the month of April.

This past Passover we added to the ten plagues on our Seder nights (limited or virtual) the eleventh--Covid. I hope all of you remained safe and well, at home, or in other states.

CSI Sisterhood remains strong. Our last big fundraiser (Shalach Manos) was very successful. Thank you to all had participated and kudos to our hard working committee who put it all together. We also had a lovely time at Bingo. We laughed, we socialized, there were winners all around. Check our future events in the Shabbos notes each week and in **The Scroll**. Thank you Sara Coppens for putting it all together. We will be able to plan more happy times once we start meeting again. Shoprite cards are available all year long.

Yankee Candle is a continuing fundraiser online. Also available all year are donation cards (contact Esther Ingber).

P.S.

Passover 2020 has passed, but I want to share with you this poem. It was sent to me by a friend. It was written by his friend, William Cohen. I am putting it away with my Passover Haggadahs for next year 2021 and hope that history will not repeat itself!

YOU'RE CORDIALLY UNINVITED

Don't come for the Seder,
We tell you DO NOT
There be no balls of matzah
On the stove, in the pot.

Tho' we won't be together
Our blessings are the same,
Stay safe and stay healthy
There's no one to blame

Don't come for the Seder
We say to you don't come
No service, no singing
Our faces are glum.

No matzo, no wine
No charoset to eat
No questions to ask
No leaning in your seat.

So don't come for the Seder
There won't be one for you here
No Brisket or Turkey, no matzah
No Exodus, this year.

We wish you could come here
We'll miss you all badly
The prep and the cleanup
We'd do them all.

Don't come for the seder
So sadly we say
But stay healthy, stay safe, and stay sane
And we'll see you someday----SOON!

This is the May Scroll. I can only hope and pray that CSI, Sisterhood, and Men's Club will be together, in person, to carry on in our wonderful synagogue. Virtual lessons have been interesting and stimulating, but I am sure we all miss our personal in-person contacts!

SHALOM STAY SAFE STAY WELL
NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM



DONOR CARDS

3 for \$10/\$4.00 for Esther
to mail one for you

Contact: **Esther Ingber**
@354-3787

CHAT LIGHTS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Nitzan Bradin
Jordan Dubbs
Randi Frankel
Arielle Goldberg
Riva Goldberg
Erika Klein
Evan Kwilecki
Benjamin Tokarski
Ryan Tokarski
Eliana Weinfeld



Thank You...

Much thanks to all of you who called and sent cards to wish me a speedy recovery after my recent fall.

Loretta Burton

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

11 Sy & Mimi Marenberg
21 Dr. Bill & Ann Klein
23 Dr. Don & Carol Trager
27 Harry & Sybil Scheiner
29 Marsel & Tamar Amona
29 Marty & Jodi Goldberg
29 Jeffrey & Nina Nulman
30 Paul & Eleanor Donath

GET WELL WISHES

If you would like a mishe barach for a relative/friend, please forward any names to the office by Friday morning or email Peggy: shaareyisrael@optimum.net

A new list starts at the beginning of each month and you must call the office if you want the name to stay on the list, otherwise it will be removed.



Shop-Rite Gift Cards*

Good At Any Store
No Expiration Date
Great For Your Grocery Shopping!

For ShopRite cards call:
the Office 845-369-0300 or
Evie Maher 201-307-0346

*Cannot use credit card to buy scrip.



We invite you to check out our website at www.ShaareyIsraelRockland.com.

We're adding content and information on a regular basis. Here's a few highlights:

A complete Shabbat schedule is posted on the home page.

Shabbat times are now shown on the home page.

Want to see a back issue of *The Scroll*? We have that too at: shaareyisraelrockland.com/the-scroll.html.

We hope you like our content. We hope to add more in the near future so keep checking back!

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CSI Funds & Contributors...

Congregation Shaarey Israel

Speedy recovery to Bobbie Goldstein

Marsha & Gary Forman

In memory of Jacob Katz

Red Avner

Robin & Barry Haberman

Beth & Jonathan Meister

Charna & Bill Weissman

In memory of Adam Pollack

Red Avner

Peggy & Marc Cabillis

Robin & Barry Haberman

Beth & Jonathan Meister

Charna & Bill Weissman

Roberta & Marv Lieman

Rona & Carl Paley

In memory of Yoni Bradin

Red Avner

Elaine & Al Bernstein

Robin & Barry Haberman

Roberta & Marv Lieman

Audrey Meister

Beth & Jonathan Meister

In honor of all the Health Care Professionals

The Weinfeld Family

Speedy recovery to Cantor Bazian

Carl & Rona Paley

Chumash Fund

In memory of Yoni Bradin

Carol Jacobs & Family

Stephen Price & Family

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

SYNAGOGUE OFFICE (369-0300)

CSI In Memory or In Honor of Donations

(\$10 minimum)

CSI Kiddush Fund and Oneg Fund

(\$18 minimum)

Building Maintenance Fund (\$10 minimum)

Hebrew School Fund (\$18 minimum)

Prayer Book Fund (\$50)

Chumash Fund (\$60)

Shabbot Dinner Fund (\$10.00 minimum)

Candy Fund (\$10.00 minimum)

Young Family Recruitment Fund

(\$10.00 minimum)

JOYCE TRUBITZ (352-2928)

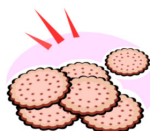
Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial Scholarship Fund



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



**RHODA BLOOM
KOSHER FOOD
PANTRY**



Call Sandra Chaitin

845-727-4199

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Forever Young Seniors

Cancelled until further notice

For information on
events call: Barbara 352-0315

Minyons

Weekday evenings:

Sunday-Thursday:

7 pm

Weekday

morn-

Cancelled until further notice.
Follow morning and evening prayers with the Rabbi and Cantor daily on Facebook at 8am and 6:45pm

ings:

Monday &

Thursday: 7:00

am

Tuesday, Wednesday &

Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm



The Rockland Jewish Family Service at the JCC, 450 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY provides a Kosher Food Pantry for those in need. Each month a dedicated group of volunteers help pack out and distribute food to our recipients.

The pantry is staffed only by volunteers and can always use more help. If you are available please come to help on Sunday morning in 2020 the following is a list of distribution dates: May 17, June 14, July 19, August 16, September 13, October 18, November 22, and December 20, 2020. If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to volunteer your time please contact me at 845-727-4199.

Sandra Chaitin



Drawings for the Annual Men's Club Calendar Sweepstakes

continues through June.

If you haven't yet joined you can find a form on-line as part of the weekly Shabbos mailing.

Many chances to win.

Ya gotta be in it to win it!



Sisterhood Wishing Well

Sisterhood gathers women's toiletries for gift baskets for The Center for Safety & Change

Drop off any toiletries in the Wishing Well located in the CSI Gift Shop or call Evie at 201-307-0346



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APRIL CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS!

Day	No.	Winner	\$
1	45	Cindy Burton	14
2	44	Rebecca Koningsberg	20
3	61	Deborah Perel	14
5	56	Sheldon Ohren	14
6	23	Sue Weiss	18
7	255	Andrew Polovsky	18
8	242	Carl Paley	20
12	143	Dorothy Kroog	14
13	235	Herman Berzon	18
14	157	Ava Grace Donath	14
17	38	Jules Stern	18
19	110	Mitchell Kelman	18
20	167	Gina Lieman	18
21	184	David Stein	14
22	256	Red Avner	14
23	126	Marv Lieman	18
24	198	Morty Julius	20
26	179	Barbara Weisel	14
27	224	Barbara Scheinson	18
28	263	Lauren & Seth Nulman	14
29	12	Audrey Meister	14
30	130	Irina & Larry Koreen	20



smile

I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE
ACT ALL INTELLECTUAL
AND TALK ABOUT
MOZART WHILE THEY'VE
NEVER EVEN SEEN ONE
OF HIS PAINTINGS...

My doctor said now that I'm older
I need to install a bar in the shower



If it is true that
stress brings
on weight loss,
why the hell am
I not invisible.

SPRING 2020



FUNDRAISING

CSI Sisterhood presents Yankee Candle Fundraiser
(IT'S NOT JUST CANDLES)

Support CSI: every purchase gives us back 40%

Go **ONLINE** from NOW till Wednesday, July 8, 2020.
You can order & have it delivered *anywhere*.

To get to our Yankee Candle Homepage:

-Go to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com

-Type in our group #999989542 in the "start Shopping" box (lower right side of the webpage) & hit "enter" on your keyboard

-You will now be on our home page. Just browse and order!

*Shipping Charges can be shown before you check out by clicking on the "Shipping Info" tab (bottom right of the shopping cart page).

IT'S THAT EASY

For questions call:
Phyllis Polovsky
845-365-0750

**leave a detailed message & I will get back to you.

Gates of Zion Cemetery



Saddle River Road
Airmont, NY

owned and operated by
Congregation Shaarey Israel

For information:

phone: (845) 352-3102

gatesofzioncemetery@gmail.com



CSI SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop: *more than Judaica.*

Call: Louisa DePaola 845-533-4069

louisad10964@gmail.com

