



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

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

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ADAR-NISSAN 5780

One of the great sources of humor and irony for the tragic in this life is the fantasies of the lives we imagine we are living and the certitude we attach to the correctness of our choices. For me, it's the life of the rabbi who sacrificed going on Aliyah to serve his community in the United States. Yes, I am striving to fulfill what I understand to be my life's purpose, yet there is the life I left behind.

I imagined the life of Aliyah, yet my two years of dedicated study in Israel ended with a firm determination to make my contribution to the Jewish community in the United States. Aliyah? Maybe afterwards.

Early in our marriage, when we had only one child and he was less than two years old, we decided to speak to him only in Hebrew as a preparation for our "inevitable" Aliyah. After three minutes of dumbstruck looks for my child, we capitulated.

Please do not let me mislead you that our enfranchising within the US Jewish community is my only excuse. I have and have had many excuses: Israel is too small, I feel claustrophobic. I care too much, it'll tear me up inside. I dislike the religious polarization. I'm afraid to serve in the army. I'm afraid of being injured in a terror attack. I'm afraid of the heartbreak of living in a community full of

people who, under the wrong circumstances, will have their collective lives ripped from

them by the horrors of war or terrorism. Lots of excuses. Enough excuses to keep Aliyah at bay. Year after year, visit after visit to Israel, excuse after excuse I managed to shut out the small still voice that calls me even still to Aliyah.

Perhaps it's better, and it certainly is easier, not to look back, but I can only take so many trips to Israel as a tourist before memory and ideals intrude.

I try to visit Israel every year; somehow my trip this year was different. The same itinerary (Yeshiva Week vacation, Jerusalem apartment near the shuk, day trip to the Dead Sea), but a profoundly different experience. I'm sure that the feeling that America is less secure now was a minor factor, but what transformed the experience for me was having read *#Israeli Judaism, Portrait of a Cultural Revolution*, by Shmuel Rosner and Camil Fuchs, a new and careful study of the currents of significant transformation of Jewish life in Israel. I admit with shame that I have in the past relied on simplistic religious stereotypes to help distance me from my brothers and sisters in Israel. Rosner and Fuchs et al clearly demonstrate that Israeli Jewish life is far more diverse, far more Jewishly committed and far more dynamic than I had known. *(continue on page 11)*

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

An Aliyah Catharsis



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel's
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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...

MARCH 2020

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
6	5:35	6:40
13	6:43	7:48
20	6:51	7:56
27	6:58	8:03

Purim, Tuesday March 10



From the Editor...

We just returned from two weeks in the Florida sunshine. Our get-a-way although, it was very pleasant, turned out to be a food fest. We met family and friends for brunch, lunch or dinner on a daily basis. After a while we ended up eating crackers in our hotel room for at least one meal for fear that we might have to pay for an extra wide seat on the plane coming home!

We saw our shul snowbird friends, our family and even reconnected with our neighbor friends from Rockland who moved to Florida about 20 years ago. We enjoyed, we reminisced, but we looked forward to coming home.

Walking into shul our first Shabbos home made me truly feel that we were home. This is where we belong. It is good to go away but like Dorothy said, "There's no place like home."



Roberta



Submissions for the April issue are due by March 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

Time marches on. Sometimes it is for the better, sometimes for the worse but certainly as time marches on things may be different. This article is a good example. Welcome to the first President's message which is not in the format that we have been used to in previous years. **The Scroll** has entered the cyber era. While I know some people are upset that there is no physical copy of the newsletter for you to put your hands on that is not necessarily a bad thing. It is just different and we have to accept that. In fact, one can make the argument that in some ways this is better. For example, you can take **The Scroll** with you wherever you go. Many of you are reading this article as an email attachment on your phone. If so, then having **The Scroll** with you at all times means you also have the Shul's monthly calendar for March right at your fingertip. (Just don't delete the email and you have all of this with you at all times.)

Change is difficult but without evolution we remain stagnant. Often I hear people say, "well we used to do it this way at Monsey Jewish Center." OK, we did. Monsey Jewish Center ceased to exist more than ten years ago. Congregation Shaarey Israel is different. We are doing things differently. By the time this gets to your email box we will be celebrating Purim. This year will be different. For the first time in a long time the "program" will come before the *Megillah* reading. The reason for this is we would like to offer an event/program geared specifically toward children. In the past, with *Megillah* reading not over until 8pm it was difficult to gear an event for children to start so late when in fact they have school. Instead, this year we will offer the program earlier so there is participation before it becomes too late for children to attend. The point is we have to learn to be more flexible. Having a children's program before the *Megillah* reading does not preclude the rest of us from celebrating the reading of the *Megillah* after it is accomplished and that is the plan. A further event will be held right after we read the *Megillah* but at least there will be an

opportunity for younger members of the community to celebrate the holiday earlier on a school night.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sara Coppens, our program director, Rabbi Weinbach, Paulette Frankel, Peggy, Jen, Edwin and Chanel for a most successful weekend program that just occurred with the visit of the *Yale Choir Magevet*. From all reports this was a most successful and joyous weekend. Part of what made it successful was that it was done differently. Rather than just bringing in food from either Evergreen or Wesley Kosher we had a professional caterer provide the repast and a high quality program. This event has now set the standard for what we need to do in the future. As I mentioned at the most recent board meeting, we learned a valuable lesson that sometimes quality over quantity offers the better path. We intend to offer more highly focused Friday night dinners going forward in the hope that we can repeat the success of this recent event. At the time of this writing, Sara and Rabbi Weinbach are hard at work in planning a Scholar in Residence Program that will have a full weekend of activity, Friday night and Saturday on the same magnitude with a dinner and hearty kiddush with a guest lecturer. It is this type of programming that will carry us forward.

I had an opportunity in the past few weeks to visit Prague. For those of you who have been, you know that it is really a beautiful city with a rich Jewish history. While I visited the Staranova Synagogue (which means old-new synagogue), I thankfully didn't see the Golem, though they tell me he is resting in the attic. What bothers me about visiting places like Prague is that for the Jewish community, it is a museum piece. Lovely to visit but there is a certain chill in the air and I don't mean temperature. The Jewish quarter is certainly one of the most visited areas of Prague but it doesn't have a feeling of vibrant Jewish life, in fact it has a certain sterile feel.

(continue on page 5)

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian Responsibility

DER CHAZZAN'S
CH' MAREH

Warning: This article contains unrestricted political commentary. Reader's discretion is advised.

ahhh... *Purim*. What a great time of year. This is the time when we read the *Megillah*, eat, drink, dress in costumes and generally have a good time. For one day, the Jewish people have a morale boost. Especially nowadays, that is a welcome thing.

I often think about how our ways are different from those of society around us. Whenever we celebrate, we always have to take a step back and remember those of us who are less fortunate. On *Purim*, we have the traditional *Mishloach Manot* (by the way, if you haven't gotten your order in, don't wait. Maybe you still can by the time this is published) in which we give gifts of food to one another. Ever wonder why we do that? The *Talmud* tells us that the reason we give these gifts is to ensure that everyone has food to celebrate a festive meal.

How about *Matanot La'Evyonim* (gifts to the poor)? That's also a special *Mitzvah* for *Purim*. It too was instituted to ensure that even the poorest among us would have the financial wherewithal to celebrate the holiday properly.

What I find so fantastic here is that these are *Mitzvot*. They're not optional. We cannot fulfill our obligation to celebrate *Purim* unless we do our part to ensure that others can celebrate too.

Judaism is very community centered. As Jews, we believe that "*Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazel*", All Jews are guarantors for one another. We bear a responsibility to each other. When one of us is in pain, it is our sacred duty to try and help ease their pain. Caring for one another is a central tenet of our faith.

On the other hand, so is personal responsibility. The *Mishna* in tractate *Pe'ah* discusses the rules regarding when someone is allowed to avail themselves of public assistance. For example, if one has a certain amount of funds, they are not allowed to take assistance from the *Kupa* (a community run fund which held funds for the poor.) The last *Mishnah* in the tractate states as follows: "Anyone who needs to take and does not take, will not die of old age until he supports others with his own money." In other words, it is greater for someone to not rely on public

life and lift themselves up through hard work. Of course, the commentaries are quick to qualify this. Rav Ovadia M'Bartenura, who wrote a famous commentary on the *Mishnah*, explains that it is not the intent of the *Mishnah* to advocate that people live in abject, terrible, killing, poverty rather than accept help. The implication is that it is better to accept help than risk personal harm but to work hard and to stop taking assistance as soon as possible.

At the core of Judaism lies our personal relationships with *Hashem* and with each other. We believe that our prayers, for example, go straight to G-d without any intermediate assistance. We do not confess to a priest, we confess directly to G-d himself. We do not rely on angels to carry our prayers, G-d himself hears our prayers directly from us. As King David said in Psalms (130:2): "*Hashem*, listen to my cry; let Your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy." King David calls directly to G-d for help. In fact, if you look throughout the *Tanakh*, I cannot think of a single time when any leader of Israel prayed through any intermediary; all prayers were aimed directly at G-d.

On the same token, we have a communal responsibility to each other. When people need help, it is up to you and me, not some faceless government or organization, to provide that help. Yes, there are organizations that collect for the poor and they do so because their collective fundraising can help more people than you or I can individually. However, they are no more than our agents and, as the *Talmud* teaches us in many places, "a person's agent is like himself." These organizations do not have the power to force us to give and we have the choice of which organization we feel will best serve our interests. That is why so many people will give their *Matanot La'Evyonim* to their Rabbi to distribute inasmuch as they trust their Rabbi to choose people truly in need and thus ensure that their hard earned *Tzedaka* money is being properly used.

I think that this is a very important lesson of *Purim*. It is a strong reminder that we have endured as a people not because we relied on a faceless organization or government but because we relied on each other. Time and time again governments and

The Scroll...4 assistance but to take charge of their

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

politicians have failed us. Governments have passed anti-Jewish laws, sponsored pogroms and built concentration camps. We have survived despite their best efforts because we had G-d and we had each other.

I have no interest in espousing a political philosophy here. This is not the place for it. But I do believe that placing our trust in politicians and governments would be a gross error because a friendly government today may not be so friendly tomorrow. That is a lesson of our history. We live in an age when candidates for president openly align themselves with virulent anti-Semites and then try to convince us that they have our best interests at heart. I am sorry. I will not buy it. If you align yourself with those who hate us, I will not count you among my friends. Period, end of story.

This *Purim*, let's take time out to remind ourselves what is important, upon whom we can truly rely and where our responsibility actually lies.

Oh, and don't forget to have a great time this *Purim*. Take a day and celebrate. Enjoy a morale booster shot and revel in *Hashem's* kindness for having saved us not only in the days of Mordechai and Esther but on countless other occasions. Spend time with your friends, family and community. Join us at Shaarei Israel for *Megillah* reading (and don't forget the kids and grandkids). Make it a special day and build memories. That's a *Mitzvah* too.

Postscript: Unfortunately, there are many in the Jewish community who believe that it is a *Mitzvah* to get drunk on *Purim*. The origins of this, and the reasons why I believe that they are dangerously wrong, are beyond the scope of these pages. However, if you are going to drink, please do so responsibly. Most importantly, be careful on the roads. Not everyone uses common sense when it comes to alcohol. Be safe out there.

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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PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

(continued)










It firmly represents our past, not our future. Unfortunately, in the present, knowing that the Golem is resting in the attic, it also brings to mind whether or not he needs to make an appearance again. The late famed Rabbi Low created the Golem to protect the Jews of Prague. I did stare up to the attic and think perhaps he needs to make an appearance in Rockland County to protect us once again.

As we slowly make changes, which I think are for the better of the Congregation, please keep in mind that the Rabbi, Cantor, staff and lay leadership always work to do what is in the best interests of the Congregation. We need to create, maintain and sustain a vibrant Congregation. It may involve doing things a little differently than we have done in the past but there is nothing wrong with that. Prague is a museum piece. Congregation Shaarey Israel is a living, breathing entity. Yes, we are unfortunately living in a stressful time, the likes of which we have not seen in many years. However, the answer to times like this is to show that we are here and here to stay. The way to do this is to build on programming which we just had and hope to have in the next few months and years to come. If we do this, I am convinced the Golem can stay in the attic.



Condolences to...

Barbara Scheinson and family on the loss of their beloved husband, father & grandfather, Ira Scheinson.
The family of former member Alan Hecht.

<p><u>Minyons</u></p> <p>Weekday evenings Sunday-Thursday: 7 pm</p> <p>Weekday mornings Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am Sunday mornings: 9 am</p> <p>Friday evenings: 6:00 pm</p>	AT A GLANCE		 <p><u>Shabbat Kiddush Fund</u> Send donations, payable to CSI, indicate in memo "Kiddush Fund." Planning a Kiddush?</p>
	<p><u>Kaddish</u> The Rabbi & minyonaires will say yearly Kaddish for members & and non-members. Contributions are made payable to: <i>Congregation Shaarey Israel</i>. Call the office, 369-0300.</p>	<p><u>Forever Young Seniors</u> Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at CSI. Call Barbara Kleinman 352-0315</p> 	<p><u>Adult Education</u></p> <p>Tuesdays: Israeli Dancing with Karin Sachs 8pm</p> <p>Wednesdays: Jewish Appreciation 7pm</p>
<p><u>Dedication Opportunities</u> Available in honor of/in memory of a loved one. Contact Stacie Podos, Red Avner, Jules Stern or Gary Forman for information on what is currently available.</p>	 <p><u>Anniversary Shabbat</u> March 6 April 3 May 1</p>	<p><u>College Students</u> Please call the office with the names and addresses of your college students so that Sisterhood can send them The Scroll and packages for the holidays.</p>	<p>Thursdays: Adventures in Midrash with Rabbi Weinbach 11 am</p> <p>Shabbat Class: Talmud & Cholent after Kiddush</p>
<p><u>Donor Cards</u> 3 cards for \$10 or one to be mailed for \$4/card Call Esther Ingber 845-354-3787</p> 	<p><u>Gift Shop</u> Call Louisa DePaola 845-533-4069 for your gift-giving</p> 	 <p><u>Gates of Zion Cemetery</u> 845-352-3102 gatesofzioncemetery@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>JNF Trees</u> \$12/tree Mail checks (payable to CSI) with all info to: Roberta Lieman 4312 Warrens Way Wanaque, NJ 07465 973-706-5176</p>
<p><u>Update your aliyah card info</u></p> <p>Contact the office with up-dates</p> <p>The Scroll...6</p>	<p><u>Going Green</u> In an effort to reduce costs and save the environment, CSI will be reducing the number of mailings. If you have e-mail, please notify the office to receive flyers on line. Only those without e-mail will receive "regular" mail.</p> 		 <p>CSI office 845-369-0300 CSI website: shaareyisraelrockland.com</p>

SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

President Audrey Meister

Here it is the month of March already. Purim is coming. Is your costume ready? The Sisterhood is busy getting our Shaloch Manos packages together. The committee is gathering everything to celebrate a "Souper" Purim (this is not a spelling error) Shaloch Manos packages will be ready for distribution on March 5 in the evening and on the nights of the Megillah reading, Monday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 10. Look for the Sisterhood March program flyer which you should have received in late February. Saturday, March 7 is a Sisterhood Bingo night. It's always lots of fun to get together. Thank you to Dale and Sheree for the planning and setting it up! When women support each other, incredible things happen.

Congratulations to our very own Rebbetzin Yocheved on being recognized by Israel Bonds Womens' Division, Lila Stern Memorial Brunch. This was very well attended and close to \$1 million was raised. Lila was a beloved member of our Sisterhood and we miss her very much. We also need to thank Yocheved for the Tu B'Shvat seder that was held at her home for Sisterhood members.

More things to remember: Shoprite cards are available all year long. Get them at the synagogue office or from Evie Maher. Our Sisterhood gift shop is also open all year. Louisa has beautiful displays and wonderful gifts all year long. There are sale items and Judaica for all holidays. CHECK IT OUT!

P.S. Our synagogue has now fully entered the digital age.

This is the first issue of **The Scroll** that is all digital. There will be a limited number of printed copies available in the lobby and office. The majority will be sent to your inboxes.

There was an article written a few months ago in *Time Magazine* about how to speak fluent internet by Katy Steinmetz, where she reviewed a book written by Gretchen McCulloch entitled *Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language*. Which of these are you?

1. Old internet people are techies who went online to socialize with strangers before the web had gone mainstream.
2. Full internet people got online circa the late 90's to connect with others they already knew from the physical world.
3. Semi internet people linked up around 2000 but primarily for work--they're less enthusiastic about socializing over the web.
4. Pre internet people are an older cohort who were compelled to get online by things like pictures of grandkids.
5. Post internet people take it for granted that the web is social, having no memory of life before it.
6. Non internet people boldly refuse to get online, despite the web's ubiquity.

BE HAPPY ADAR IS COMING!!!!!!



MEN'S CLUB MESSAGE

President Mark Pfeffer

The Men's Club hosted an interesting February meeting where we discussed some of the past news stories of the day, focusing on difficult events within our community, but we also planned for some new spring activities. We anticipate and hope for more programming and a growing sense of excitement that new Purim, Passover, and Yom Hashoah events will inspire. We hope many of you will be inspired to participate in the Men's Club, Sisterhood, and Youth Group activities being planned for the up-coming Spring season.

Purim comes early this year, in March. The Shul always plans Purim activities, and this year should be spectacular with a new Program Director. All of us, including adults, children, and grandchildren should be looking forward to new and unique programs. Shortly after Purim the Men's Club hosts the "Siyum", or the "Redemption of the Firstborn" This breakfast program will take place on April 8th, at 7:00 a.m. We always have a significant attendance. Won't you join us by coming down, listening to the Rabbi, partake in this important ritual, and then feast, giving you the last opportunity to eat chametz, before the Passover holiday commences that evening. We are requesting that sponsors step forth, to help allow the Men's Club to host a sumptuous chametz breakfast. What doesn't get eaten ends up being donated to charity.

Men's Club sponsors the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Project. We hope that you will join with other members of Congregation Shaarey Israel, and other congregations around the world, on Wednesday night at sundown, April 20, by lighting a yellow Yartzheit candle, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Men's Club asks that every member of our congregation purchases one or more yellow candles. Each yellow candle is sold for \$18.00. A portion of what Men's Club takes in is returned to the Holocaust Center to help them fulfill their educational goals. Shaarey Israel will conduct a service on April 20th, with a speaker telling of the experiences faced during

World War II. Several Yellow Candles will be lit as a memorial and our members and our friends will be given an opportunity to recite the Memorial Kaddish prayer

On the Saturday before Yom Hashoah, on April 18th, we are showing a film that tells the story of a great musician who helped save other great musicians by getting them to Palestine during World War II, to escape Nazi Germany. It is entitled, *Orchestra of Exiles*. We have a surviving family member tell of her personal knowledge of the family featured in the film. It will be a fascinating accompaniment as part of our Yom Hashoah Holocaust remembrance theme. Save the date, Saturday evening, April 18th to learn about this fascinating story of triumph over adversity.

Since March is now here Men's Club begins our Annual Calendar Sweepstakes. I hope all of you have helped by supporting our Calendar Sweepstakes Program. If you have already purchased Sweepstakes Numbers, you still have time to purchase a few more. You get a number for a mere \$10.00 donation which allows you the opportunity to purchase a number, which might be the winner of a cash prize. Please join us for our Annual Calendar Sweepstakes.

Other Men's Club events under consideration: Movie Night ; Charter Fishing Party Boat ride; a dance in the early autumn; meet the local candidates. We still anticipate having a speaker discuss health related topics as an area of discussion for a week night get together.

Men's Club meetings are on the first Monday of each month, immediately after the evening minyons at 7:15 p.m.. This may change if we go back to 8:00 minyons. We ask all the men of the congregation to join us, and attend our Men's Club meetings. Your ideas and your comments are valuable and helpful, and greatly appreciated. Won't you come down and help make the Men's Club a successful organization. Thanks for your support.



CHAT LIGHTS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Danielle Amona
Eden Amona
Bridget Bekker
Eric Bell
Shlomy Goldberger
Sophie Olivia Green
Eric Frankel



The Scroll is now digital.

This is the first issue of **The Scroll** that you will be receiving by email.

There will be some copies available on the table in the lobby with the announcements.



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!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

13 Bruce & Jeryl Weinfeld
17 Stan & Toby Cherney
19 Sandy & Beverley Fried
20 Joseph & Miriam Staub
23 Ludovic & Magda Goldstein
25 David & Natalie Cohen
28 Michael & Lauri Bernstein

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.

Minyons

Weekday evenings:

Sunday-Thursday: 7 pm

Weekday mornings:

Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm



Thank You...

Esteemed Fellow Congregants,

I have taken pen in hand to say "Thank You" to all the "nice" people who took time from their busy lives to visit me, call, send me a card, give "goodies", books to read, etc.

It's been more than seven months since I fell ill and became unable to visit with you in our beloved synagogue on a regular basis.

This letter is to commend all those whose encouragement has helped me toward healing. I look forward to being with you all in shul at services and at the wonderful kiddush after (among other things).

Although belated, I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year in 2020 and the future.

Sincerely,
Marvin L. Joachim

I want to thank all my fellow congregants who took the time to send me your good wishes for a speedy recovery from my heart attack. Getting each one lifted my spirits at a time when they were not at their best. It is comforting to know that people care.

Thank you all again,
Joe Cohen



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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: March 15, April 5, 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



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



Rabbi's article continued from page 1

And so I reflect on choices made and choices as yet not confronted. I am older and perhaps wiser now, and I have found that the secret to maturing through middle-age is accepting that everything has trade-offs.

Aliyah would be good, but oh the trade-offs! Living in America provides the comfort of a familiar cultural milieu; a clear career path that makes life financially easier (until you have to pay Day School tuition); only one out of four kids in the army; not suffering with the religious factionalism that breaks my heart; less concerns about terrorism (remember just a short while ago when there was no concern, in America and for American Jews); less tragedy; less politics.

But what did I trade away? I found my answers while shopping at a supermarket in Gush Etzion. There I looked upon my contemporaries from America who had chosen the life I avoided. There was a woman in her fifties who I imagined has made a rich Jewish life for herself. She reminded me of my cousin Robin, among the first of my extended family to commit to Israel. I imagined that for all the struggles, and the children in the army, and the uncertainty about the future shape of Israel, hers was a life less concerned with assimilation, intermarriage and the dilution of Judaism.

There was a man my age in uniform and with a gun. I imagined what scars he might carry from war or occupation, but that his life had the security of defending one's home and ideals and the strength that comes from a posture of readiness for conflict.

And there were two new mothers, clad in comfortable pants, shopping together and supporting each other. In a community in which nationalism and commitment to halachah runs high, these women (and the Arab vendors I met as well) seemed at ease, as if the dream of a tolerant and diverse Israel were really possible.

Ah, but what of my children. Three out of my four children live close enough within the greater New York area. They were raised, as I was, with an ever-fading commitment to aliyah. My sister got her Aliyah-centric name in the late

fifties; 15 years later, and even after a bar mitzvah in Israel, the dream of living in Israel had quietly faded. My own children experienced much the same. People tell you all the time how wonderful it is that their kids went to live in Israel. That is not my experience (nor, with a bit of prodding, anyone else's). Having a child living across the sea is saddening, no matter how much WhatsApp and telephone may help. Moving to Israel would triple that problem.

As our People left Egypt, the Torah describes them as "chamushim", armed. There is a midrash quoted by Rashi that translates the word instead as one-fifth (think Chumash, the Five Books of Moses). Accordingly, we are asked to consider that one-fifth went up from Egypt while a full four-fifths remained. Perhaps I am one of the four fifths, staying behind instead of becoming part of the future of Judaism as expressed more fully in Israel. Perhaps I have chosen the comfort of the familiar and the security of family. Perhaps I have decided that it is better to be a slave to security rather than face the dangerous road of freedom. Or perhaps I have made the right choices, to serve this wonderful congregation and my community in the United States, and to keep my family as close as possible. I cannot know, but I also cannot continue to go to Israel and make believe that my choice to pass on Aliyah was certainly correct. I dare say none of us should be so foolish as to be certain of the righteousness of our choices.



Are you in the Sweepstakes? These people are...
 Drawings begin March 1. There is still time to be in the drawing.

Numbers	Names
1-10	Moskovic, Joseph
11-15	Meister, Audrey
16-17	Leff, Saul
18-22	Julius, Morty
23-24	Weiss, Sue
25-26	Krakower, Elise
27--30	Smith, Dale and Norton
31A	DePaola, Louise
31-32	Math, Melvin
33-42	Stern, Jules
43	Bradin, Sam
44	Koningsberg, Rebecca
45	Burton, Cindy
46-48	Kaplicer, Neil
49	Harbus, Michael
50	Harbus, Leonard
51-55	Saunders, Stanley
56-60	Ohren, Sheldon
61-70	Perel, Deborah
71-80	Forman, Marsha & Gary
81-90	Safier, Jay
91-100	Goldstein, Martin
101-103	Folb, Sandra & Ed
104-105	Maher, Evie
106-115	Kellman, Mitchell
116-117	Finkel, Natalie
118-127	Lieman, Marv
128-129	Weinfeld, Bruce
130-131	Koreen, Irina & Larry
132-134	Zechnowitz, Grace
135	Palma, Chanel & Edward
136-140	Marenberg, Sy
141	Glantz, Lewis
142-143	Kroog, Dorothy
144	Burton, Cindy
145-146	Fried, Beverly & Sandy
147-148	Kroog, Lenny
149-153	Joachim, Marvin

Numbers	Names
154	Donath, Paul & Eleanor
155	Donath, Ryan Michael
156	Donath, C J
157	Donath, Ava Grace
158-161	Ruhm, Rosalyn
162	Trubitz, Joyce
163	Lieman, Ira
163A	Lieman, Ira
164	Lieman, Marc
164A	Lieman, Marc
165	Lieman, Sue
165A	Lieman, Sue
166	Lieman, Eric
166A	Lieman, Eric
167	Lieman, Gina
167A	Lieman, Gina
168-170	Block, Myron
171-173	Chaitin, Sandra & Paul
174-176	Weissman, William
177-181	Weisel, Barbara
182-186	Stein, David
187	Shanler, Carol
188-192	Bernstein, Elaine & Al
193-194	Katz, Tina & Sandy
195-199	Julius, Morty
200-209	Safier, Jay
210-211	Krakower, Elise
212	Frankel, Paulette
213	Frankel, Charles
214	Frankel, Eric
215	Frankel, Randi
216	Pfeffer, Mark
217	Pfeffer, Ira
218	Pfeffer, Jackson
219	Pfeffer, Austin
220	Pfeffer, Sandy
221	Pfeffer, Barry
222	Pfeffer, Scarlett

Are you in the Sweepstakes?
There is still time.

Numbers	Names
223	Burton, Cindy
224	Scheinson, Barbara
225-226	Mark, Howard
227-229	Jacobs, Carol
230	Crawford, Joyce
231-240	Berzon, Herman
241-242	Paley, Carl
243	DePaola, Louise
244-248	Math, Melvin & Golde
249-253	Farber, Sam
254-255	Polovsky, Andrew
256	Avner, I
269-272	Avner, I
257	Bates, Amelia
258	Bates, Connor
259	Nulman, Mackenzie
260	Nulman, Jackson
261	Bates, Amanda & Brian
262	Bates, Amanda Hope
263	Nulman, Lauren & Seth
264-268	Farber, Samuel
273	Polovsky, Phyllis
274	Burton, Cindy
275-276	Prestipino, Rochelle
277	Maggio, Miriam
278	Greene, Juanita
279	Prestipino, Adriana
280	Prestipino, Frank
281	Prestipino, Nate
282	Prestipino, Lori
283	Prestipino, Jessie
284	Prestipino, Kim
285	Shanler, Walter

Come One Come All to
CSI Sisterhood's



Night

Saturday, March 7 @ 7:30pm
\$10 for 2 cards
includes lite refreshments

RSVP: Dale Smith 845-357-3021
Sheree Newmark 845-304-4060



Sisterhood March Program



March Madness Hat Tea Party

March 12, 2020 7:30 Pm

Wear a Hat and Try for a Prize

Best, Most Original, Funniest

Tea & Cookies \$2.00

SPRING 2020



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.

PASSOVER SCHEDULE 2020

Have You Sold Your Chametz?

Tuesday, April 7: Search For The Chametz -
7:40 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8: Siyum B'chorim -
following 7:00 a.m. morning minyan

Wednesday, April 8: finish eating Chametz
before 10:36 a.m.

Wednesday, April 8: Burning Chametz at a
community location before 11:30 a.m.

CANDLELIGHTING TIMES and EARLIEST SEDER:

Wednesday evening, April 8 - 7:11 p.m.

Thursday evening, April 9 - after 8:12 p.m.

Tuesday evening, April 14- at 7:18 p.m.

Wednesday evening, April 15- after 8:20 p.m.

SERVICES

Wednesday evening
April 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday & Friday mornings,
April 9 & April 10: at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday evenings,
April 8, 9 & 10: at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday evening,
April 14 at 6:30 & April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday mornings,
April 15 & 16 at 8:45 a.m.

Thursday evening
April 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Yizkor on Thursday, April 16 approx. 10:30 a.m.
Passover ends on Thursday, April 16 at 8:21 p.m.

**PLEASE WAIT UNTIL 8:30 P.M. FOR THE
RABBI TO RE-PURCHASE THE CHAMETZ.**



ONLY IN ISRAEL

by Efraim Kishon, Israeli humorist

Israel is the only country in the world where patients visiting physicians end up giving the doctor advice. Israel is the only country in the world where no one has a foreign accent because everyone has a foreign accent.

Israel is the only country in the world where the leading writers in the country take buses.

Israel is the only country in the world where people cuss using dirty words in Russian or Arabic because Hebrew has never developed them.

Israel is the only country in the world where the graffiti is in Hebrew.

Israel is the only country in the world that has a National Book Week, during which almost everyone attends a book fair and buys books. Israel is the only country in the world with bus drivers and taxi drivers who read Spinoza and Maimonides.

Israel is the only country in the world where no one cares what rules say when an important goal can be achieved by bending them.

Israel is the only country in the world where reservists are bossed around and commanded by officers, male and female, younger than their own children.

Israel is the only country in the world where "small talk" consists of loud, angry debate over politics and religion.

Israel is the only country in the world where the ultra-Orthodox Jews beat up the police and not the other way around.

Israel is the only country in the world where bank robbers kiss the mezuzah as they leave with their loot.

Israel is one of the few countries in the world that truly likes and admires the United States. Israel is the only country in the world where everyone on a flight gets to know one another before the plane lands. In many cases, they also get to know the pilot and all about his health or marital problems.

Israel is the only country in the world where people call an attaché case a "James Bond" and the "@" sign is called a "strudel".

Israel is the only country in the world where the coffee is already so good that Starbucks went bankrupt trying to break into the local market. Israel is a country surrounded on all sides by enemies, but the people's headaches are caused by the neighbors upstairs.

Israel is the only country in the world where people read English, write Hebrew, and joke in Yiddish!

CSI Funds & Contributors...

Congregation Shaarey Israel

In memory of Ira Scheinson

Red Avner

Robin & Barry Haberman

Roberta & Marv Lieman

Beth & Jonathan Meister

Dorothy Brenner

Linda Masia

Larry Newman

Speedy recovery to David Kwilecki

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

Speedy recovery to Danny Kwilecki

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

Speedy recovery to Ken Podos

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

In honor of the birth of Stacie & Ken Podo's granddaughter

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Dr. Morton

Julius' grandson

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

In honor of the engagement of Peggy & Marc

Cabillis' son Matthew to Antonietta Natale

Judge Al & Renee Weiner

Kiddush Fund

In memory of Ira Scheinson

Billie & Philip Bauman

Debra Ann Harbus Memorial Fund

In loving memory of Debra Ann Harbus

Pearl & Leonard Harbus

Peggy & Ed Krupnik

Saul Leff

In loving memory of our Uncles David and Samuel Alholz

Pearl & Lenny Harbus

In loving memory of Claire & Andrew Bronsky

Peggy & Ed Krupnik

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

We need you!

**The evening minyan meets
at 7 o'clock.**

**Please help sustain our
minyan.**





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**

CSI SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP



The Gift Shop:
more than Judaica.

Check out the shop *and* the table in the lobby. The table will feature costumes for Purim, masks and Purim gift baskets priced \$5 to \$10. Need a quick gift to take? Visit the "Table."

See the display case next to the office.

Call: Louisa DePaola

845-533-4069

louisad10964@gmail.com



**Drawings for the
Annual Men's Club Calendar
Sweepstakes**

begin March 1 and run through June.

If you haven't yet joined you can pick up a form at the shul or on-line as part of the weekly Shabbos mailing.

Many chances to win.

Ya gotta be in it to win it!



Israeli Dancing

led by Karin Sach

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

in the Ballroom

Call the office for more info:

845-369-0300

Minyons

Weekday evenings: Sunday-Thursday: 7 pm

Weekday mornings: Monday & Thursday:
7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm

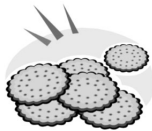


DONOR CARDS

3 for \$10/\$4.00 for Esther
to mail one for you
Contact: Esther Ingber
@354-3787



RHODA BLOOM KOSHER FOOD PANTRY



CSI is collecting cookies
for the food pantry

Call Sandra Chaitin 845-727-4199

Are you interested in
joining a
book discussion group?



CSI's book discussion
group meets about every
six weeks on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.
If you enjoy reading and discussing books of
Jewish nature come participate.

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

The Scroll...18 Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298

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



Forever Young Seniors

meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each month

For information on events
call: Barbara Kleinman
352-0315





Date	Event	Location	Time	Person Responsible
3	Adult Ed Class		7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
3	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
4	Forever Young Seniors	Multipurpose Rm	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
4	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
5	Shaloch Manos Pack Out	Multipurpose Rm	5:30 pm	Sisterhood
5	Sisterhood Board Meeting	Multipurpose Rm	7:30 pm	Audrey Meister
6	Services & Ann'y Shabbot	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
7	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
7	Children's Services		8:45 am	Sara Coppens
7	Sisterhood Bingo Night	Multipurpose Rm	7:30 pm	Dale & Sheree
8	Children's Purim Party			Sara Coppens
9	Fast of Esther	5:44 am – 7:19 pm		
9	Megillah Reading	Sanctuary	7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
9	Purim Party	Multipurpose Rm		
10	Shacharis at 7:10 am Megillah Reading 7:30 am			
10	Adult Ed Class		7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
10	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
11	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
12	Private Room Rental	Multipurpose Rm	5:30 pm	Nachim Ozeri
12	Sisterhood Program	Room 2	7:30 pm	Louisa Depaola
13	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
14	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
17	Adult Ed Class		7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
17	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
18	Forever Young Seniors	Multipurpose Rm	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
18	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
20	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
21	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
23	JFS Passover Seder	Multipurpose Rm	6:30 pm	Marsha Forman
24	Adult Ed Class		7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
24	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
25	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
26	Board Of Trustees	Class Room 2	7:30 pm	Jack Perel
27	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
28	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
31	Adult Ed Class		7:15 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
31	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs