



The Scroll

Congregation Shaarey Israel

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

VOL. LVV, NO. 4

DECEMBER 2018

KISLEV-TEVET 5779

J don't want to talk about it, but I must. Eleven Jews gunned down at prayer, without regard to life or sanctuary. Not Orthodox Jews, Conservative Jews, Reform Jews, Reconstructionist, cultural Jews, any-description-you-can-think-of Jews: Eleven Jews because they were Jews. Jewish enough for the anti-semite...and Jewish enough for any Jew.

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach once said, "if he's a Jew enough for the Nazis to hate him, he's Jew enough for me to love him."

Shortly after the shooting a congregant asked me how to respond to a friend of his who chose to highlight that the shooting occurred in a Conservative synagogue. After restraining myself from a more gut reaction, I told him to tell his friend that we are all afraid, and when we are afraid we tend to draw illusory boundaries so that we can say "them, but not us." We do well to remember that Etz Chayim was not chosen because of their worship service but for their act of chesed--they had recently hosted an event for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

Respectfully Yours...

from the desk of

Rabbi Weinbach

Kaddish for the Pittsburgh Eleven

From my vantage point as the writer, you are reading this in a future for whom the memory of the Pittsburgh Eleven is already fading. Try as we may, with time any loss loses its grip on us. Perhaps we will still remember them at this year's Yizkor. Perhaps we will still remember

them at the High Holidays. All I can do today is send a message to the near future so that you, dear reader, might remember the near past. This is a time of grieving; that time is not yet over. I do not know after how many months to stop this kaddish, but I know that this Chanukah is too soon. How can I look at eight candles and not think of eleven?

Still we look forward with faith, and we the Jews keep trying to negotiate this ever-crazier world of ours. *Yisgadal v'yiskadash sh'may rabbah*. May G-d be glorified and sanctified in the world he willed, and be crowned in our lives and in our days and in the days of all Israel, Amen.



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 previous month for publication.

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CANDLELIGHTING FOR... DECEMBER

Date **Light** **Shabbat**
 Candles **Ends**

7	4:09	5:14
14	4:10	5:15
21	4:13	5:18
28	4:17	5:22

CHANUKAH...

1st candle Saturday, December 2, after Shabbos

The Scroll...2



From the Editor's Desk...

A haven, a place of refuge, isn't that what synagogues, churches, mosques should be? The event of October 27th in Pittsburgh has defied our sense of security. Unfortunately it took the horror of Pittsburgh to wake us up to the anti-Semitism that exists here in the United States. The skin heads and white supremacists spouting anti-Semitic rhetoric are becoming more vocal.

As horrific as the event was I was comforted to see that we were not alone in our grief. I heard from neighbors, Jewish as well as Christian, that at their various services there were interfaith clergy in attendance mourning as well.

This brings to mind Pastor Martin Niemöller, a German native and Nazi sympathizer who in 1934 changed his view of the Hitler regime. He is known for the following:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We must be vigilant, we must combat this hatred. **Am Yisroel Chai!**



SHALOM

Roberta



Submissions for the January issue are due by December 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

as this scroll article is written and read we approach a Happy Holiday, Chanukah. It is a no pressure time for us as Jews; in fact it is the most non-pressure holiday, unless you are counting the calories of the latkes or the sufganiyot. And maybe the pressure of buying gifts for too but at least that is a good pressure. Yet, our hearts are heavy as for many of us our heads are still swirling following the Massacre of Eleven of our Brothers and Sisters in Pittsburgh.

It has not been an easy few weeks. Like the Rabbi stated from the bimah the first Shabbat after the tragedy it is hard to wrap our heads around this and each week it might fade from our memory and we will see an easing of our tensions. Yet, the impact on Congregation Shaarey Israel needs to be permanent and it is my hope that we will take away from this tragedy a more thoughtful approach of the delicate balance we face in our lives as congregants who simply want to sit on a Shabbat in our "Sanctuary" and revel in the joy and comfort of being Jews and being together as a Congregation.

On that tragic day in Pittsburgh I will admit that I was completely detached from reality as the events unfolded. I was in Disneyland, which to many is "The Happiest Place on Earth" both literally and figuratively. Mickey Mouse is not just an American Icon but a World Icon. It is amazing to me that just days after Pittsburgh was the marketing genius of Mickey's 90th Birthday Party on ABC where everyone on that show made the point that immersing oneself in "the Mouse" just makes you feel good and in a different place and people of all ages, all religions, all ethnicities feel that way about this larger than life cartoon character...including me. I stood in the California sunshine with my phone blowing up every two seconds with an update as to what occurred and my stomach churned and my head hurt and all kinds of thoughts ran through my head. I certainly felt in that bubble I was protected but so do we all when we sit in our "Sanctuary" at 18 Montebello Road.

I use the term "Sanctuary" in quotes because our sanctuary where we daven, whether it be the main one or the small one is just that, a Sanctuary. It is our place to be detached from reality,

from all of the stresses in our lives to focus on our connection with Hashem as well as our connection with each other. Yes, it is horrible to sit in this special place now and have to think that someone can burst in through a door and, we may not see it coming and shatter our peaceful place. Certainly no one in Pittsburgh thought that could ever happen.

Our world has changed a bit but in reality it has not changed. We just did not have to think about it as much until now. However, there have always been people thinking about it for us and we have to credit those who do, whether it be our local law enforcement personnel, the members of the armed forces and certainly the IDF and the State of Israel and of course Hashem. We are Jews and unfortunately for thousands of years we have been a target of hatred, whether it be in Europe, Israel or here in Rockland County.

The new reality at 18 Montebello Road is that we have an armed security guard, we will be vigilant in ensuring that all doors are locked at all times and of course, our local law enforcement personnel are looking out for us. Most importantly, however, we must remain the Congregation that we are and one thing I would like to say and like to think is that we look out for each other in the good times and the bad times. Our sanctuary is just that, A SANCTUARY. It is an extension of our homes and when we read the stories and biographies about the 11 Jewish Martyrs in Pittsburgh we should realize that the Tree of Life Synagogue was their "Sanctuary" as well despite the fact that ultimately that holy place was shattered.

As we celebrate Chanukah we will never forget what just occurred nor the tragedies of the Jewish people. Yet, we need to be happy this holiday. Enjoy all of the wonderful symbols and foods of this holiday and the time that we will spend with our friends and family. Including the wonderful times we spend together in our "sanctuary" at 18 Montebello Road as when we do this we conquer all of the hatred that unfortunately we know exists.



THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian A Perfect World

November is supposed to be a month of thanksgiving. Yet, it is tinged with sorrow. In the waning days of October, tragedy struck a congregation in Pittsburgh when an anti-semitic walked into a shul on a Shabbos morning as a circumcision was taking place and callously murdered eleven of our brothers and sisters shouting that "all Jews must die." The gunman's name is not a secret but I will not mention it here. May his name be blotted out like the names of all those before him in our history who fueled their days with hate and desire to annihilate us merely because of our devotion to *Hashem*.

Joyce Feinberg, Rich Gottfried, Rose Malinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger. These are the names we should remember. They should be inscribed on our walls, on our hearts and in our minds. Sadly, however, I fear that is not to be for most of the world. The fascination of the American public with monsters who shed blood, will bring public focus not on the righteous victims, but on the evil that snuffed out their lives in a brief instant of time.

Tragedy, unfortunately, is not new to the Jewish people. I was weaned on the untold horror of the Holocaust. As a child, I can remember reading *Holocaust and Rebirth, Bergen Belsen 1945-1965*. I saw the pictures of the camp taken when the British liberated it. The pictures showing cleanup and burial of thousands of bodies, the portraits of the murderers and so much more are burned in my mind. But the book was not just about the incredible calamity that occurred there. It focused more on the survivors and how they rose like a phoenix out of the ashes and rebuilt their broken lives. They refused to succumb to what they experienced and became a true "light among the nations." What could have resulted in an unending cycle of pain and suffering was transformed into

rebirth and a celebration of life. They honored their 6,000,000 brothers and sisters who died by living and rebuilding.



DER CHAZZAN'S
CH' MAREH

My father once told me of a man he knew in the Bronx in his early years in the United States. The man had 15 children. My father once jokingly asked "when is enough, enough?" The man's expression was fire as he answered, not with anger but with unbroken conviction, "*Hitler hut gezugt az er vet umbrengen alle yidden. Ich vell im vayzn!* (Hitler said he would kill all the Jews. I will show him!)"

I have always thought that this was one thing that set the Jewish people apart from the entire world. We were raised on a philosophy of life and hope. It is no accident that our favorite toast is "*L'Chaim!*" meaning, simply, "to life"! Life, to a thinking and believing Jew, is sacred.

The sanctity of life is at Torah's very core. Our sages, in Tractate *Avodah Zarah* (p. 27b), teach us: "You shall therefore keep My statutes, and My ordinances, which if a man do, he shall live by them' (Leviticus 18:5). This teaches that one should live by G-d's *Mitzvot*, and not that he should die by them. This verse serves as a source for the *Halakha* that one may violate a prohibition in order to save a life." The sanctity of human life trumps almost all of the Torah's *Mitzvot*.

Our focus on life is what gives us the hope to pick up the pieces after a tragedy and go on. Our faith grounds us with the knowledge that there is a Master of the Universe that runs the world. While I cannot understand his plan, I have faith in it.

Don't get me wrong. I am not a fatalist. I do not

THE CANTOR'S CLOUD

(continued)

believe in sitting back and just letting things happen. If I can be proactive and try to ensure that things work out in my favor, I will definitely do that. Like the boy scouts, I believe in being prepared. But there comes a point after I have done what I can, that I will sit back and leave the rest to Him. What else can you do?

I will share one thought that has been on my mind many times in my life. The first time I ever really thought about it was two days after 9/11. I was visiting a client whose offices were on a city street that also had a police precinct. The block was closed off and guarded by a police officer and you had to show ID to get on the block. I was, at the time, a police department chaplain. When the policeman saw my ID, he asked me why G-d allowed the 9/11 tragedy. I was taken aback by the question but I thought quickly and responded, "I don't know why G-d allowed this to happen. But rather than think of the 19 that murdered 6,000 people (which is what we thought the death toll was at the time), I prefer to think of your brothers in the Police Department and your cousins in the Fire Department who ran towards the fire to save innocent people. Without evil, good has no meaning."

Lawrence Peter Berra, better known as Yogi, was famous for his words of wisdom. His quotes are so famous that a special word, "yogiism", was coined. One of his lesser known quotes was, "If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be." It is, perhaps, counterintuitive but the truth is that we need to see both sides of the human equation. A world that is all good, with no hurdles to overcome, no unexpected happenings and yes, no tragedies, would not be worth living in. If all we knew were joy, we would not recognize how it must be treasured when it enters our threshold. We know how much tragedy hurts, and we do not wish it on anyone, but it is a necessary part of life.

I refuse to walk away from this tragedy feeling dejected. I feel defiant. I want the world to know that, no matter what they try to do to us, *Am Yisrael Chai!* The People of Israel Live! We, the people whose *Torah* focuses on life, will continue despite the worst they throw at us. If the tragedies in our history have taught me anything, they taught me that.

May *Hashem* grant a true consolation to the family, friends and community of Congregation Etz Chaim of Squirrel Hill. May they know no more sorrow.

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. © Menachem Bazian, 2018



Celebrate Hanukah
in a permanent way.

Purchase a brick or leaf
in honor of or memory of a loved one
on the wall of bricks or the tree of life
at Congregation Shaarey Israel.

Normally \$150.00 per brick/leaf
For Kislev only they will be \$100.00

Contact Peggy in the office
for more information 369-0300

Condolences to...

Michele Dubbs on the loss of her beloved
mother, Renee Kupchin
Hank Meyers on the loss of his beloved sister,
Arden Cohen

The Scroll...5

<p><u>Minyons</u></p> <p>Weekday evenings Sunday-Thursday: 8 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></p> <p>December 7 January 4</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></p>  <p>3 cards for \$10 or one to be mailed for \$4/card</p> <p>Call Esther Ingber 845-354-3787</p>	<p><u>Gift Shop</u> Call Louisa DePaola 533-4069 for your gift-giving</p> 	 <p><u>Gates of Zion Cemetery</u></p> <p>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><u>Going Green</u></p> <p>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 <u>CSI website:</u> shaareyisraelrockland.com</p>
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SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

President Audrey Meister

Jn November we were treated to a wonderful Paid-up Membership Sisterhood Dinner. Thank you Evie, and your committee for the planning and executing of it. Those of us who attended will always remember putting our roses into the table centerpieces symbolically uniting us as Sisters. We all had a wonderful time! (See page for pictures.)

Coming in December, we will celebrate Chanukah together, light the menorah, and exchange gifts. Look for the flyer for more information.

You may be wondering why there was not a Woman of the Year announced in November. It was a difficult choice because all our Sisterhood members are Women of the Year. For years now there has been little change in our membership, and those who remain are the best of the best. We are always there for each other, always volunteering to chair a committee, welcome women and men to the synagogue on Shabbat and holidays. Our task in 2019 is to recruit the next generation of members to carry on our mission. Many years ago, when I was not working, and my son was a young child, I used to take him with me to a sisterhood bowling league. Several of us car pooled and brought the kids with us. Those were different times, but they were good and fun times. We need to build up our Sisterhood and Synagogue with younger members, with interesting programs, and small fundraisers, (we may not make the big bucks) but we have lots of fun! For example: Bingo, movie nights, and game nights. When you are at

the synagogue, there are numerous flyers of planned activities. Check your mail, read the notes every Friday via e-mail (if you have e-mail). Most important if you haven't paid your dues there is still time (\$36).

P.S. Since **The Scroll** articles are due the month before, I did not get the opportunity in November to share with you my trip to Israel. So many wonderful experiences took place there. Here are just three of them:

1. Being at the Wailing Wall with hundreds of people from different countries, cultures, and religions, all praying together.
2. Being at a wedding outside of Jerusalem in the forest of Ein Hemed National Park, was amazing, and beautiful.
3. In 2003 The Itzhaki Family fulfilled a long time dream of establishing a boutique winery that combines the production of quality wine with social responsibility. The winery is located in the North of Israel in Kfar Tikva (Village of Hope), a community settlement, and the first of its kind for adults with developmental and emotional disabilities. The name of the winery is Tulip and the wine was great-tasting. It is also kosher.

There is joy in Israel inspite of the BDS movement, rise of anti-Semitism and fighting in Gaza with Hamas.

May we have joy in the United States, despite the tragedy in Pittsburgh

G-d Bless America

Am Israel Chai

We must be strong!



Join Sisterhood

**Send in your \$36 dues to
CSI attention Lois Price**



MEN'S CLUB MESSAGE

President Mark Pfeffer

We need you to join Men's Club. Men's Club's pledged commitment to the synagogue cannot be fulfilled without your membership and participation in our events. Please send in your \$36 dollar dues. We need your dues, your ideas, and your physical presence for Men's Club to succeed.

Our major fundraiser, the Calendar Sweepstakes, has kicked off. We encourage everyone to get involved by purchasing several tickets. Numbers are drawn throughout the spring and early summer, so you have multiple chances of being a winner with a very small initial investment of only ten dollars. Don't be left out when you see your friends and neighbors winning. Ya gotta be in it to win it!

This year we expect to sponsor a number of activities. We have a speaker for an interesting breakfast program. He is a well-known author who happens to be a religious Jew. He will speak about his life as a member of the Jewish Mafia, and will share some of his stories with us. He has a fascinating story to tell.

Men's Club is looking to host a Game Night where we can play cards, or board games,

and eat and drink for a social night of fun. We are looking to host several trips to various places throughout New York. Some of these activities we hope will be co-sponsored with the Sisterhood.

Last year's Community Blood Drive was a complete success. We would like to host another blood drive next year. This year we have been in contact with a wine retailer and are contemplating a Wine Sale commencing before Purim and extending through Pesach into the June wedding season. The Shul always has a need for wine, and this vendor, may offer us an opportunity to have a tasting. Keep looking for further details with this project.

We have not forgotten about the people who love to play Military Bridge and hope to place that back on the agenda as a joint Men's Club and Sisterhood function for the springtime of next year.

Men's Club needs you to help make our organization a success. Please pay your \$36 dues, come join our activities, come to our meetings and let your voice be heard.



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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COMING ATTRACTIONS

AT CSI

December 7th -

Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

December 24th -

Chinese & A Movie

December 31st -

What are you doing?

New Years Eve?

Call Paulette--if there's interest and we will try to make it happen.

Things are always happening at CSI.

Paulette Frankel - 845-641-1298

CHAT LIGHTS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Orian Amona
Melissa Bekker
Arianna Humphrey
Alexandra Nifco
Andrew Polovsky
Cindy Singer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9 Leonard & Pearl Harbus
9 Leonard & Dorothy Kroog
12 Allen & Lois Bashoff
16 Steven & Miriam Kahan
17 Paul & Sandra Chaitin
19 William & Charna Weissman
20 Selwyn & Louise Lempert
24 Daniel & Sheila Goldman
27 Barry & Robin Haberman
28 Joseph & Hilda Moskovic
29 Heshy & Frimet Goldberger



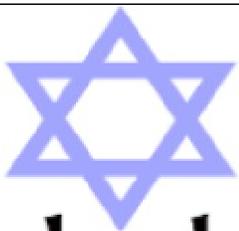
BINGO

Saturday night

January 26

sponsored by Sisterhood

Happy Hanukkah



Thank You...

Esteemed Fellow Congregants,

Thank you for joining me or purchasing an ad in the journal at the Veteran's Breakfast (October 14) where I was honored.

I was delighted to see so many familiar faces there to break bread with many of my veteran comrades and my family.

Your presence and good wishes made my day! A double reward for all those thousands of hours and miles driven to volunteer activities in which I was involved.

Thanks again,
Marvin Joachim

Dear Fellow Congregants,

After my Mom, Renee Kupchin, unexpectedly passed away, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of friendship and support from you, my CSI family.

When you attended the funeral, paid a shiva call, made a donation in her honor, sent a card, and ensured that there was evening minyanim so I could say kadish, it was a mitzvah and I was deeply touched. For your generous acts of kindness, I am eternally grateful.

Michele Dubbs

Mazel Tov on the Engagement of...

Diane & Bob Leifer's granddaughter Melissa to Max Bartel

Mazel tov on the birth to...

Chana and Cantor Bazian on the birth of a new granddaughter, Layla Rae (Zipora Eden)



Welcome New Members...

Chana (Annie) and Yoel Braver children: Sol and Ariella

The Scroll...9

Why Do They Hate Us? by Julie Feldman

The article below expresses the opinion of the congregant, not necessarily the opinion of the congregation.—ED.

I am writing this on Sunday, October 28, 2018, the day after the Pittsburgh Massacre. That this should occur in the United States, in a large city with a long-established Jewish community boggles the mind. Many relations-in-law of my mother lived in Pittsburgh over the decades. Pittsburgh is home to multiple universities; University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon, Duquesne, smaller colleges, schools of nursing and theological seminaries. This is not a backwoods dirt-and-buggy town. This is a major city with a history of accepting immigrants to work in its industries. Not unlike the New York City I grew up in.

We have all heard the canards that the hate-mongers offer: Jews control the money, the news industry, the government, the world. We are oppressors of Palestinians. Jewish exceptionalism is the cause of all evil. We steal Christian children for their blood to make Passover matzoh. Ad nauseum.

I was reading a book just yesterday and this morning and it gave me an idea that may strike closer to the truth. It's part of the "Images of America" series, and you can rent these books for free from the Kindle eStore. They contain wonderful old pictures of the US, usually based on geography. There's one on Suffern and another on Pearl River, if you should be so interested. I found one on Ligonier, Indiana, where a distant branch of my mother's family settled in 1865. It was a thriving town up through the 1960's but seems to be in serious decline now. The Jewish population peaked in the first decade of the 20th century, but then began to move to Chicago.

Beginning in the 1870's Ligonier's Jewish community was very much concerned with the education not only of their own children, but of the town's children in general. Before they erected their own synagogue (Congregation Ahavas Shalom), they worked diligently to build a proper, fire proof school for the town. Ligonier recognized the leadership of the community in this matter, and the Jewish population became not only accepted but participated fully with the Christian groups of the town in governing and improving it.

Education: how often have we as a people been lauded for our dedication to knowledge and learning? How much has ignorance held sway over the millennia in the lives of other groups? For those of us of the generations since the first World War, we have assumed that individuals have always wanted (and sought) educational opportunity. I propose that this is a modern conceit, and that it is fading rapidly. The United States government recognized in the post-industrial age that a well-educated population was necessary. World War II and even more so, the Space Race, made this mandatory for the nation to be able to maintain its leadership of the free world. However, (and the teachers among you may disagree), in the last twenty years we have seen a rise of "ghetto culture" that glorifies street smarts and denigrates education. We have gone through a period of education where the enhancement of self-worth through any and all means took second place to developing self-worth through acquisition of knowledge.

The denigration of knowledge in western thought is nothing new. Since at least the medieval era, in general all Jewish men could at least read their daily prayers, while only the priests and most elite ruling class of Christianity could read and write. Therefore, the people were dependent on these classes to learn their religion and not much else. Not surprisingly, "education" was actually "indoctrination." I used to ask Catholic friends to explain to me the Trinity and why that did not constitute worshipping three gods. Every conversation came down to "well, you just have to have belief." Belief, yes. Incredulity, no.

Education can be a dangerous thing to those who want to maintain the status quo. If you are a bigot, education could possibly overturn your lovingly held beliefs. Therefore, you try to destroy education and those who want to preserve it. You do what ever you have to do to prevent loss of the control you believe you have and to reacquire what you believe you've lost. Knowledge just makes a mess of your belief system. Those who venerate learning, inquiry and facts are your opposites, your enemies.

Perhaps that is the real reason they hate us.



Ritual Committee Message from Al Bernstein

The Ritual Committee has met to assess how the High Holiday services went. We tried to involve the members of the Congregation in the various aspects of the services, including various honors and aliyahs and we will continue to do so. Some of you may have suggestions and/or critiques and if so, I would hope you would contact me.

With regard to our daily services, we are in need of the Congregation's cooperation with respect to your attendance at daily services, so that we can fulfill our obligation to have minyons. We are certain that during the course of the year many of you wish to be able to say *kaddish* at a minyon. It would certainly be helpful for you to participate in this endeavor.

As to our Shabbos and holiday services, we respectfully request that there be proper decorum and that you limit conversations to a bare minimum. It is discourteous and disruptive to whoever is leading the service and to those of us who are praying to have people engaged in conversations.

We hope that you help the Congregation by enabling all of us to enjoy our services in a meaningful and satisfying way.



Minyons

Weekday evenings: Sunday-Thursday: 8 pm

Weekday mornings: Monday & Thursday:
7:00 am

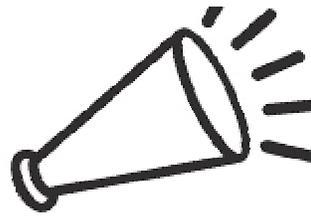
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm



CALLING ALL MEN



Send in your
\$36
Men's Club
dues.

Join us for our activities.

Thank you to all who attended the
Sisterhood showing of
An American Tale
on Sunday, October 28.

All had a great time.

Thank you for putting the
FUN in FUNDRAISING.

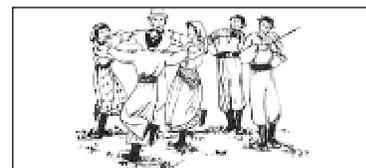
Join us on January 26 for BINGO...details to
follow.

Dale Smith and the Fundraising Committee

Israeli Dancing

led by Karin Sach

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Ballroom



Call the office for more info:
845-369-0300

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Congregation Shaarey Israel

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Condolences to Gayle Mishoulam and family on
the loss of her son Jay

Joyce Trubitz

The following people will be happy to
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**Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial
Scholarship Fund**

Congregation Shaarey Israel
mourns with the families of the
Pittsburg Eleven.



As you may know 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 the needy. The pantry is staffed only by volunteers and can always use more help. The distribution for the last month of this year is Sunday December 9.

If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to volunteer your time please contact me at 845-727-4199.

Sandra Chaitin



On behalf of the Jewish Family Service I wish to thank you all for your generous donation of children's toys for their annual Chanukah Toy Drive. You light up Chanukah for the needy children and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Chaitin



THE CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKES IS HERE...

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BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE by Al Bernstein

You likely put in place estate and financial plans to provide for you and your loved ones. These plans may include a will or living trust, IRA, pension plan, or insurance policy beneficiary designations.



Many of these instruments also can be used to secure the future of charitable organizations such as Congregation Shaarey Israel, while providing tax savings for your estate.

After first making gifts in your will to those you wish to receive a specific sum or certain property, you can then name charitable interests, such as our Shul, to receive all or a portion of what remains.

You may name the Shul's endowment as a beneficiary to receive all or a portion of the proceeds from a life insurance policy that you may no longer need.

Amounts remaining in retirement plans can be subject to heavy taxation when left to non-spousal individuals. Qualified charities (such as Congregation Shaarey Israel) can, however, receive these funds tax-free. Consider directing all or a portion of remaining amounts to Congregation Shaarey Israel's endowment and providing for loved ones from other sources.

You may name the Shul's endowment to receive all or a portion of what is left in a savings, brokerage, or other investment account.

You may also wish to consider charitable gift annuities, which present tax planning opportunities.

You may contact our treasurer and/or your financial consultant.

Congregant of the Month: Grace Zechnowitz In the Beginning by Julie Feldman

This month's Congregant of the Month article will take a different approach. Grace Zechnowitz has lived in Rockland County for 51 years now and I wanted her to give me some history of the Monsey Jewish Center [MJC] (a predecessor of Congregation Shaarey Israel) and some of her personal history as well.

As a young married woman, Grace lived in the Bronx with her husband Al and their young son and daughter. Like other families, they needed more space and a shorter commute for Al who was an engineer for Sperry Rand in New Hyde Park in Nassau County, just over the border from Queens. They settled first in Lindenwood (Howard Beach), Queens in a new development in a garden apartment. The Zechnowitz's joined the only congregation in existence in the area at the time: a modern orthodox synagogue with a young and active rabbi to match the young and active congregants. This is where Grace first became involved with a Sisterhood and learned much of what she would bring to MJC.

Eventually Lindenwood grew too crowded for them. Grace had a sister already living in Rockland County, so they purchased a new home in Monsey when the Blueberry Hill/Victory Gardens developments were just starting to go up. Some time after settling in, Grace saw a sign on a tree on Route 306 promoting a new conservative congregation. Since they were looking for a Hebrew school for their son, Al and Grace were interested. They liked the idea that they could walk to the synagogue and they were comfortable with the Conservative service. At that time, the congregation had only been in existence for about a year, having broken off from the Spring Valley JCC. It had about 20-30 families and had just hired its first Rabbi, David Chanofsky. Grace remembers the founders at the time; Ruby Josephs, Albert Elish, Ben Asch and Bob Fromson.

Grace met Rabbi Chanofsky when bringing her son to Hebrew school. What was supposed to be a five-minute chat turned into a 2-hour conversation. It turns out that the Chanofsky's and the Zechnowitz's shared the same wedding

other connections that developed between them. Grace recalls that Rabbi Chanofsky was very friendly and charming. He knew his congregation well and she particularly remembers how he encouraged men who had never been Bar Mitzvah'd to study along with their sons and become a B'nei Mitzvah as well. Later on, Grace assisted the Rabbi by holding teas in her home for newly joined women congregants so that could meet and get to know him and he could get to know their backgrounds as well.

Grace became active in MJC's Sisterhood once the family was well settled in and the children were in school, giving her more free time. In those early days, everyone pitched in to make the synagogue inviting, even down to the women of the congregation doing all the cooking. She brought her prior experience with her while advancing from Trustee to Secretary to Vice President of Fundraising and eventually to President of the Sisterhood. She found when she joined that there were no by-laws so she imported the first version from her old synagogue. She also started the "Bon Voyage" fundraiser, where 250 tickets were sold, giving the purchaser a chance to win a wonderful trip to Israel after enjoying an evening of dancing and socializing leading up to the winning ticket being announced. Grace is also responsible for the development of Sisterhood's Service Points award system.

If that wasn't enough, Grace ended up working for the Rockland office of Israel Bonds. She didn't go after the job, Israel Bonds chased her! She and Al were in the office purchasing a bond, and the office manager decided that Grace had what they needed for the office and pursued her relentlessly until she agreed to work for them. Originally, she was the part-time (seasonal) secretary/stenographer for the Women's Division, then became a full-time staff member. After nine years, she was made the Office Manager, a title she held for another ten years before she retired.

In looking back on those early years, Grace has only good memories; "Lots of great times," she says.

The Scroll...14 anniversary, but there were many





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louisad10964@gmail.com



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**Roberta Lieman
4312 Warrens Way,
Wanaque, NJ 07465
or call 973-706-5176**



Minyons

Weekday evenings: Sunday-Thursday: 8 pm

Weekday mornings: Monday & Thursday:
7:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:10 am

Sunday mornings: 9 am

Friday evenings: 6:00 pm

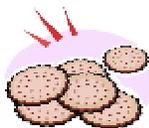


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RHODA BLOOM KOSHER FOOD PANTRY



CSI is collecting cookies
for the food pantry

Call Sandra Chaitin 845-727-4199



Forever Young Seniors

meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each month

For information on events
call: Barbara Kleinman
352-0315



The Scroll...16

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

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
Paulette Frankel 845-641-1298



Date	Event	Location	Time	Person Responsible
1	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
2	Chanukkah Begins At Sundown			
3	Men's Club Board	Room 2	7:00 pm	Mark Pfeffer
4	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
4	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
4	Family Chanukah Party	Multipurpose Rm		Paulette Frankel
5	Forever Young Seniors	Multipurpose Rm	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
5	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
6	Sist. Chanukah Party	Multipurpose Rm	7:30 pm	Audrey Meister
7	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
7	Anniversary Shabbot			
7	Chanukkah Shabbot Dinner	Multipurpose Rm	7:00 pm	Paulette Frankel
8	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
9	Men & Sist. Military Bridge	Multipurpose Rm		Mark Pfeffer
10	JFS ARC Chanukkah Party	Multipurpose Rm	6:00 pm	Marsha Forman
11	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
11	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
12	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
14	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
15	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
15	B'nai Mitzvah Of David & Jonathan Assouline			
16	Private Room Rental	Multipurpose Rm	6:00 pm	Moshe Stein
18	Book Club Meeting	Daily Sanctuary	11:00 am	Paulette Frankel
18	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
18	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
19	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
21	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
22	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
24	Annual Chinese & Movie	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Paulette Frankel
25	Rabbi's Class	Room 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
25	Israeli Dancing	Multipurpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
26	Jewish Appreciation	Room 2	7:30 pm	
27	Board Of Trustees	Room 2	7:30 pm	Jack Perel
28	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
29	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach

HAPPY CHANUKAH

