

# The Scroll



## Congregation Shaarey Israel

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

VOL. LVIII, NO. 6

FEBRUARY 2017

SHEVAT-ADAR 5777

**A**mongst the most beloved of children's book is Shel Silverstein's **The Giving Tree**. A tale of a giver and a taker, the giving tree is happy to give whatever it can to its beloved boy, while he has gone on to a life of consumption and futility. Happiness is, for the boy/man, ever fleeting, whereas the tree stays rooted to its spot, ever-ready to sacrifice toward the goal of a happy boy.

On February 10-11, Friday night and Shabbos, we will again mark Tu BiShevat, the so-called Jewish Arbor Day and our New Years for Trees. The Jewish legal basis for this New Years is unromantic. In order to properly tithe tree-grown produce, farmers needed to know which year in the tithing cycle the trees in his orchard had blossomed. Thus, if the tree blossomed before Tu BiShevat, for the purpose of tithing the fruit belongs to the previous year; if after Tu BiShevat, the fruit is counted toward the next year. (Please join us for our Shabbat meal and Tu BiShevat Seder on Friday night!)

We could leave the matter at its simplest except for the great symbolic role of the tree in our Torah The Tree of Knowledge and the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden; "*etz chaim hee* - It is a Tree of Life for those who grasp for it", the halachot of war found in the book of Deuteronomy that protect fruit trees from

destruction; and the verse there: "For is the tree like a person to fall before you in siege?" - the Torah compares trees to people. For us a tree is not just a tree.

The special trees from the Garden of Eden had the power to give, either sophistication or eternal life. When Adam and Eve choose to "know good and evil", they forfeit the possibility of receiving eternal life through the Tree of Knowledge. Yet through the Torah - "a tree of Life for those who grasp it" - a life of Eternal value and a beautiful existence beyond this one are given to us again (my thanks to Harvey Golubock for insight into the connection between the Tree of Life and the Torah).

Real trees are giving things, and in ways that earlier generations could not understand. Driven by a lust for "development" our world has stripped the forests to unprecedented levels of depletion, threatening our biosphere and blighting countless beautiful forests. All the while our trees give us our oxygen, root our soil and feed us, and ask for nothing more than life in return.

As we enter a new year for trees let us reflect on the beauty and bounty of G-d's trees, care and give back to them, and reaffirm our deep connection with our Torah, the true Giving Tree.

**Respectfully Yours...**

**from the desk of**

**Rabbi Weinbach**

**Happy New Year,  
Giving Tree!**

# The Scroll

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

Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach  
Rabbi Emeritus David H. Chanofsky  
Cantor Menachem Bazian  
Bill Bradin, President

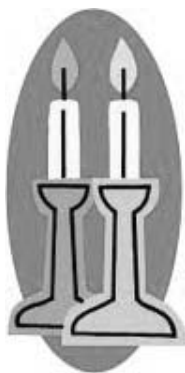
Congregation Shaarey Israel  
18 Montebello Road  
Montebello, New York 10901  
845-369-0300  
www.congshaareyisrael.org

Roberta Lieman, Editor  
973-706-5176

E-mail: roberta@theliemans.com

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... FEBRUARY 2017

Date	Light Candles	Shabbat Ends
3	4:58	6:03
10	5:07	6:12
17	5:15	6:20
24	5:24	6:29

Tu B'Shevat--February 11th

The Scroll...2



## From the Editor's Desk...

Treat yourself to an inspiring morning... come to Shabbos

services. As regular Shabbos goes, Marvin and I enjoy the service and the comraderie with our CSI family at the Kiddush following the service. We also are quite taken by the words of the Rabbi's sermons. Each week the Rabbi's words are thought provoking and inspiring. Should we miss a week we hear from those who attended how great his sermon was.

We do miss an occasional Shabbos service due to poor weather conditions (287 is not the best road to travel when fog or snow is present), or invitations to *simchas* in other shuls, or when visiting our 18 month old twin grandchildren in Nashville, Tennessee (although even the best sermon would not have cancelled our plans-- sorry Rabbi).

Being a member of CSI affords you many benefits. Take advantage of the good feeling you get from attending services and being part of a warm, friendly, family centered Congregation. Come to Shabbos services and even bring a friend. You'll be glad you did.

SHALOM



Roberta

Submissions for the March issue are due by February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please **promptly** send in any articles or flyers, via e-mail, to be included in the issue.--ED.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill Bradin

**S**halom Congregation Shaarey Israel Family, Let me start off by bestowing my condolences to Marsha and Gary Forman on the passing of Marsha's father and Gary's father-in-law, Solomon Forman. May you know no more sorrow and may we only hear good things moving forward.

Apropos, there is an article that appeared in **The Jewish Week** on May 29, 2016 written by Michelle and Michael Steinhart, titled "Take A Deeper Look: Supporting All Families". It is such an important article to read and focuses on belonging to a community. I have permission from the author to use the article, but have not heard back from the editor. Once I hear back, I will have it appear in a subsequent **Scroll**.

I can't believe that Spring is just around the corner. You are probably saying to yourself " 'Spring'. Is he crazy, it is just February, and he is already talking about it being Spring". For me the arrival of Spring is determined by the arrival of **Tu B'Shvat**. Tu B'Shvat is just around the corner, February 10 and 11, 2017 to be exact. **Tu B'Shvat** is our **Jewish Arbor Day**. In Israel, the trees begin to bloom and it is celebrated by the planting of new fruit trees across the country. At Shaarey Israel, we will be celebrating the holiday as well with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by our Hebrew School children. The service will be followed by one of our great community Shabbat Dinners. We will enjoy a Seder Tu B'Shvat. It will be a fun and meaningful evening. There is nowhere else that I would rather be. Please make every effort to attend. The more participants there are, the greater the simcha will be!

We are coming off a very successful Chanukah holiday. Our **8th Annual "Chinese & a Movie"** turned out to be a lot of fun by all who attended. We saw the comedy "Keeping up with the Steins" and are already taking movie title recommendations for next December.

The **8th Candle of Chanukah/Year-End Party** was great. We ended up having a nice turnout. The mood was fantastic. My hat goes

off to Bruce Weinfeld, the Men's Club and all those who worked so hard to make it the fun event that it was.

In early February, Rabbi Weinbach and Jonathan Meister will be heading out to Israel on a Mission from our Jewish Federation of Rockland County. They will represent Congregation Shaarey Israel. There will be about 30 participants from the various shuls and organizations in Rockland County on this Mission. This is a continuation of the county **Community Weaving Project** that we have been working on for the past year or so. We will get an update from them upon their return.

We have many things in the planning stage for the upcoming months. We are working on putting an exciting **Purim** program. We will soon put together a campaign to grow our Hebrew School for the 2017/2018 year. Cantor Bazian has agreed to lead us once again in our traditional **2nd Passover Seder** on Tuesday, April 11.

We started working on our **Journal Dinner Dance** to take place on **Sunday, June 11, 2017**. Many thanks to Mimi Marenberg and Barry Haberman for chairing this extremely important fund-raiser for our shul. Please, mark your calendars accordingly. There will be more information to follow.

We can plan and dream about ways to make our shul community grow, be vibrant, be exciting, and be meaningful. The success is dependent upon all of us. I am asking all of us to take an active role in making all of this happen. Come to Minyanim. Come to Shabbat and Holiday Services. Participate in our shul adult education opportunities. Become members of the shul's Men's Club and Sisterhood. If we all do our part, we can accomplish so much together. Congregation Shaarey Israel – "Where Tradition Meets Innovation".

*We have the best Congregation!*

## THE CANTOR'S CLOUD by Cantor Menachem Bazian

### The Way We Were



This article was supposed to be delivered yesterday. I sent Roberta an email and told her to expect it by the end of the day. It didn't happen. This morning, when I got up I realized that I had not completed what is to me a very important monthly task. I was upset that I had made a commitment and was unable to keep it. What's worse, I didn't send her an email of apology.

Then I stopped and realized that my oops was actually the perfect thing. You see, today is a special day for me. It's January 18th and today is Chana's 50th birthday. It's been a busy couple of weeks as Yitzchak and I schemed and plotted surprise after surprise to try and make her one special day be several weeks of special days. Some of the surprises worked while others didn't. Still, the day is finally here. Facebook was updated this morning and the happy birthday wishes are pouring in. Dinner is on tap for tonight. All in all, it is working out to be a special day.

No, you will not be reading a 1,000 word birthday card to my wife (although I know I could write one). Those of you who have followed my scribblings in these pages know that many of these articles are triggered by life events. These events make me stop for a moment and think. Those ruminations then spill over from my mind into the keyboard and an article is born.

It gives me pause to think that Chana and I have been together for over 30 years and that she is now half a century old. It seems like only yesterday that we met (and boy, is that a story I could share!) on our first date. Today, we are the proudest of parents and grandparents. Thirty years of marriage, half a century: those numbers seem so large to me yet I know so many people who will look at these statements, snort and call us babies. I guess it all depends on where you

A milestone like this is a good time to take stock. Of course, as Jews, we are supposed to constantly take stock of our lives and

actions, but a significant life event gives added impetus to the need. A milestone birthday or anniversary is a good time to look back and ask yourself where you are, where you have been, what you have done and where you hope to go from here. I consider myself fortunate in that, as Cantor of CSI, I have many friends here who have accumulated much life experience and wisdom. I can just look out on a Shabbat morning and see couples, families young and old, veterans, survivors, professionals, business owners and so much more. The vast breadth of human experience in the room is truly impressive. More importantly, not only is there great human experience here, but there is a tremendous desire and willingness to share that experience with anyone in need. That is the most impressive fact of all.

I wonder if we can really appreciate, in the normal course of events, just how much we have to offer each other as a group. Have you considered that you can probably get almost any question you have answered within the four walls of our Congregation? Have a legal question? We have a few lawyers and at least three judges I know of that grace our pews. A medical question? Got that covered too. A science question? Well, I don't know if we have any nuclear physicists on board but I would bet most science questions can find an answer in the *Shul*.

My point is simple: As a Congregation we have tremendous strength. I am just not sure that we all properly take advantage of that strength.

Sure, when we are hurting or celebrating, we

## THE CANTOR'S CLOUD *(continued)*

know that Shaarey Israel is there for us. When we lose a loved one, the Congregation responds with support, *Shiva Minyanim* and much more. If you have a personal problem, your clergy is there to assist you. When it is time to have a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, a wedding, a *Bris* or a *Pidyon Haben*, you have expert help available at the touch of a phone keypad or computer keyboard. That's what family is all about. That's why Shaarey Israel is such a special place to be.

I have learned one thing in my life: Sharing a problem makes it lighter, sharing joy makes it greater. Shaarey Israel embodies that philosophy. I think we have to make an effort to get the word out on that.

There are many people in this world who could benefit from joining our family. We all know some. Why not invite them over for a *Shabbat* service? Let them pray with us and then join us for one of our great *Kiddushes*. Let them meet our wonderful family.

You know, it's kind of funny. As a Congregation, we are always ready to reach into our pockets and help people financially. That is a great form of *Tzedakah*. People can have many needs

beyond financial, though. Perhaps a simple invitation to join our wonderful family can be the best favor you do for someone.

Chana's 50th birthday has reminded me how important it is to appreciate what you have. I am thankful everyday for the gifts that Hashem has given me, one of which is the wonderful woman I married. The other is the Congregation I have the great fortune to be affiliated with. If you feel as I do, let's share this great experience with others. By sharing the news of how great a Congregation Shaarey Israel is, and how much we can offer people in all the times of their lives, we will be opening the doors for so many people to learn what we have learned: Shaarey Israel is a home for a great and loving family.

Happy birthday, Chana! As they say in French, "*Biz a hundred un tzvantzik!*"

**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](mailto:njChazzan@gmail.com).*

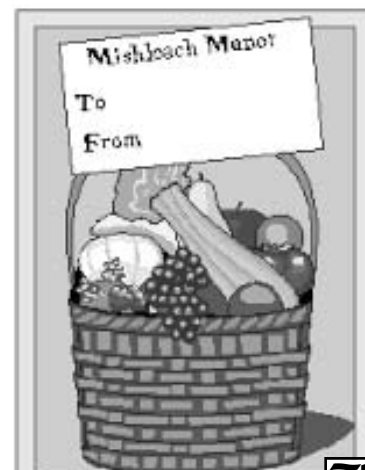
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### CSI'S NEW LOGO



### PURIM IS COMING!

WATCH IN THE MAIL FOR YOUR  
SHALOCH MANOS  
ORDER FORMS



**The Scroll...5**

## SISTERHOOD MESSAGE

Baby, It's Cold Outside, But Our Hearts Are Warm

Julie Feldman, President

The snow and the cold have arrived, and I for one am counting off the weeks until spring training starts. Whenever winter upsets and annoys me, I think about our baseball teams pulling themselves back into shape in the warm Florida sunshine, along with all CSI's snowbirds. It gives me fortitude until the first crocus blooms.

Of course, the coming of spring means the coming of Purim, and this year Sisterhood is going to "knock one out of the ballpark" with our Shaloch Manos Purim basket. Our theme this year is "Relaxation and De-Stress". We've already started to pull together the scented candles, mint and chamomile teas, and of course, chocolate! It's going to be a wonderful basket, one which you are going to want to share with your friends in the congregation and out. In the coming weeks, you will receive (if you haven't already), your Purim Order Form. We've kept the price the same as last year (\$136 to send to the entire congregation, or individual baskets at \$18/basket with a minimum of 3 baskets). Please participate in the mitzvah of sharing Shaloch Manos with others in the Jewish community. The money you spend comes back to you by being able to provide interesting, innovative programs, maintain our beautiful building, support our Hebrew School and being able to continue to employ our wonderful clergy and staff.

Another project of our Sisterhood, is something that has become near and dear to my heart; helping our congregants (both male and female) to come to the Synagogue to attend services, programs, meetings and other events. Many people have said to me that they would love to come out but they no longer drive at night or drive at all. Therefore, we are starting an initiative to match people who need transportation with those that can volunteer to drive. On another page in **The Scroll**, you'll see a sign-up form. Please complete it and send it in to the office. We'll do our best to make a match,

**The Scroll..6** if not in heaven, then at least on

the roads. I ask those that are able to be drivers, be generous with their time. One day, you may very well be on the receiving end of this courtesy. For those who need transportation, I ask for your understanding as we get this project underway. We may not always have someone available in your area or at the right time, but we will do our best to bring you to CSI.

I wish everyone a safe, warm and dry winter!

## WHO'S WHO IN SISTERHOOD 2016-2017

If you need to contact any of us, please speak to Peggy and she will put us in touch with you.

Position	Name
President	Julie Feldman
Treasurer	Lois Bashoff
Vice Pres., Fundraising	Phyllis Polovsky
Vice Pres., Membership	Evie Maher
Vice Pres., Programming	Sandra Chaitin
Corresponding Secretary	Eleanor Donath
Financial Secretary	Audrey Meister
Recording Secretary	Esther Ingber
Special Functions	Deanna Simon
Women's Service	Diane Leifer
Parliamentarian	Barbara Weisel





# CSI HEBREW SCHOOL

Danielle Maroff, Educational Director

Our students have demonstrated much joy in coming to Hebrew School to take part in Jewish learning. Many special and creative activities are continuously being planned to stimulate interest and connect the students' lives with Hebrew School studies.



In Tefilla, we are reciting the prayers and practicing for our Friday night family service which will coincide this year with Tu B'Shvat on February 10th. We discussed the importance of Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for the trees, and how it expresses our natural connection with Eretz Israel. It is a time of renewal and growing. In Israel, the early winter rains are almost over, and the period of budding is just beginning. We will celebrate Tu B'Shvat and remind ourselves of the commitment to protect the trees, and all of God's creations.

## SISTERHOOD OF CONGREGATION SHAAREY ISRAEL



Sisterhood is beginning an initiative to help bring Congregants to services, meetings and activities. You can help by volunteering to drive someone from your area. If you're willing to participate in this mitzvah, please fill out the form below and mail it to the Synagogue, attention: Sisterhood/Drivers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Available (circle): morning afternoon evening Shabbos

Can drive (circle): All Rockland Orangetown Clarkstown Spring Valley Chestnut Ridge/Tallman Pomona Wesley Hills/New Hempstead Monsey/Airmont Suffern/Montebello No. Rockland All Bergen Wanaque Paramus Mahwah

If you need a ride for a service, meeting or activity, please contact the office as soon as possible with the following information:

Name(s)

Address

Phone Number(s)

What activity you need a ride for

If you require transport of a cane, walker, wheelchair or other device.

You will be contacted by a member of Sisterhood to arrange for your transportation.

Thank you to all our wonderful members who are willing to take the time to join in this important initiative.

## THE MEN'S CLUB MESSAGE...

Mark Pfeffer

**O**n the last day of December the Men's Club hosted the Shaarey Israel **End of the Year Party**. We reported on it last month and made some warm, well deserved, thanks to the ladies and men who worked so very hard to make it a successful evening. That message was written before the event actually occurred. I wish to report that it was a successful evening and the thanks should go to all of you who came out to support the party. We are very grateful that many of you cancelled other plans to join us and support the Congregation and the Synagogue. Of equal importance and deserving much heartfelt thanks of appreciation are the men and woman who encouraged their friends to come out. There was an abundance of wine, champagne, liquor, soft drinks, and mixers to make the celebration festive, and a great quantity of deliciously prepared food to fill us up throughout the evening.

We cannot forget to thank the men and ladies who served everyone and made sure there was plenty for all. The entertainment was outstanding with a congenial, gracious, deejay and a fabulous singer who was able to play a variety of musical melodies, to keep the party lively throughout the evening. If you missed it, you missed a lot, so try and go out of your way to not miss the next major social event of the season...you won't be sorry.

The next upcoming Men's Club event is the **Calendar Sweepstakes**. Red and Marv are collecting money and giving out winning tickets. Purchase a sweepstakes ticket(s). Each ticket gives you one number and costs only \$10.00. For that \$10.00 you get a chance to win numerous times for the sweepstakes run continuously, six nights a week for four months. This gives you approximately 22 to 26 chances each month to have your winning ticket drawn. You get four months of excitement, as you wait to see if your lucky number gets drawn. This event is truly a bargain. The contest runs from March 2017 through June 2017. You can win numerous times with the same number as the numbers are returned to the bin after each drawing. So let's all buy a number of tickets, for yourself, your friends, and your family. This helps to give you the best chance that you will be a winner. Send your checks in as soon as you can. Indicate on the check

**"Calendar Sweepstakes"** in the memo section, and address the checks to Men's Club. Remember, *"You've got to be in it, to win it."*

For February, we are working on a **Breakfast Program** to discuss *"End of Life Decisions"*. As soon as our speaker gives us a firm date, we'll pass the information along to you, so be ready to join us for a hearty breakfast, and an inspiring discussion.

We are working on an **Estate and Antique Road Show** type presentation for **Sunday, March 19th**. We have an auctioneer who will teach us about the collectables we have stored in our attics, and we will bring in items to show. The auctioneer will teach us about the collectables we present, as we show off our pieces and enhance our knowledge of what we own. We will have a hilarious time as we will learn about the value of these precious heirlooms and then we can decide if we wish to hold onto, or sell our priceless possessions.

As the Spring arrives we are planning another project, which has been successful in the past. This is the **Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Project**. We will be offering all members Yellow Yahrzeit Candles, as our way of helping everyone remember the Holocaust. A portion of all of the money we collect gets donated back to the Holocaust Center to further their educational programs. We are hoping for one hundred percent participation for this worthwhile project. We will remind you again as the time gets near, that **Yom HaShoah** falls this year on **April 24th 2017**, and we wish all families to *"Light a Candle, Preserve a Memory"*.

Later in the Spring we hope to host a **West Point Shabbat Dinner**. The **West Point Choir** will be invited to come and perform at a Shabbat Dinner. We are eagerly looking forward to that event.

We will only be able to do all these dynamic programs if you come down and help. The **Men's Club Board Meetings** are when we plan out all the details of these upcoming events. We invite all the men to come down to help us plan. We meet on the **first Tuesday of each month**, and we encourage you to get out, come down, and join us. We welcome your ideas, and suggestions. New members are especially welcome, so please on down.



## THE ALEPH BETs OF HEBREW by Bill Bradin

*Hebrew is not such a difficult egg to crack. Each month, I plan to try and define Hebrew words and expressions that we commonly use in our daily vernacular.*

This month let's examine the word **Bracha**, which is pronounced **b'racha**. **Bracha** is one of the most commonly used words in its many forms in our services and in our daily life. The word **Bracha** simply means "blessing". The root of the word (**bet-resh-chaf**). **Bracha** is from the infinitive **L'varech** and means "to bless". There are those who say a **bracha** (singular) and/or **brachot** (plural) for everything they do on a daily basis. We recite the **Birchat HaMazon** after the meals.

In our three daily services, we recite multiple **brachot**. We start off these services when there is a Minyan with the imperative form of **bracha** which is **Barchu**. This same form of the word is used when are called up for an Aliya to the Torah. The central prayer of the daily services is called the **Amidah** (because we stand) or synonymously the **Sh'monah Esreh** (which means 18) because it contains 18 requests and **brachot** that we direct to HaShem.

When greeting and welcoming one another in Hebrew, we say **Baruch HaBa** (singular) and **Bruchim HaBa'im** (plural). When wishing one

another Shabbat Shalom, the response is Shabbat Shalom **u'Mivurach**. May you have a "blessed and complete Shabbat".

We ask for a **misheberach** when one is ill or in need of additional attention. To understand this we should break this down to **mi she'berach** (he that blessed.....) and typically is followed by our forefathers, refers to HaShem bestowing upon us or others that additional blessing for extra protection.

The word is **Bracha** is a very common Hebrew name for women. Its male counterpart is **Baruch**.

Another interesting point about the logic of the Hebrew language is the word for knee. In Hebrew, knee is **berech (be-rech)**. This word has the same root as **bracha**. It is very interesting because we are supposed to bend at the knee before bowing when we say the **Barchu** as well as other parts of the service that require bending over.

Going forward, may we all be blessed with many **brachot** now and always.

## JUDAISM 101

*The following was taken from a post on Facebook by Michael J Nadel from Toronto ON Canada dated November 8, 2015*

In Crown Heights, there was a Jew, Yankel, who owned a bakery. He survived the camps. He once said, "You know why it is that I'm alive today? I was a kid, just a teenager at the time. We were on the train, in a boxcar, being taken to Auschwitz. Night came and it was freezing, deathly cold, in that boxcar. The Germans would leave the cars on the side of the tracks overnight, sometimes for days on end without any food, and of course, no blankets to keep us warm," he said. "Sitting next to me was an older Jew – this beloved elderly Jew - from my hometown I recognized, but I had never seen him like this. He was shivering from head to toe, and looked terrible. So I wrapped my arms around him and began rubbing him, to warm him up. I rubbed his arms, his legs, his face, his neck. I begged him to hang on. All night long; I kept the man warm this way. I was tired, I was freezing cold

myself, my fingers were numb, but I didn't stop rubbing the heat on to this man's body. Hours and hours went by this way. Finally, night passed, morning came, and the sun began to shine. There was some warmth in the cabin, and then I looked around the car to see some of the other Jews in the car. To my horror, all I could see were frozen bodies, and all I could hear was a deathly silence.

Nobody else in that cabin made it through the night – they died from the frost. Only two people survived: the old man and me... The old man survived because somebody kept him warm; I survived because I was warming somebody else..."

Let me tell you the secret of Judaism. When you warm other people's hearts, you remain warm yourself. When you seek to support, encourage and inspire others; then you discover support, encouragement and inspiration in your own life as well. That, my friends, is "Judaism 101".

# BLUE AND WHITE AND RED AND GREEN OR "SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREES"

by Eileen Pollack

"Mrs. Pollack, do ya' think Jewish people would make such a big deal over Chanukah if it fell out in July?" .....

Art Linkletter (remember him – '60's TV show host) was absolutely correct. After interviewing young children from all over the United States, he concluded that "Kids say the darndest things."

So there I was, some thirty years ago, explaining to my fifth grade Hebrew School class the how to's of properly lighting the menorah, when I was forced to pause, gather my thoughts and respond:

"Yes, many Jewish people would observe the holiday whenever it would take place," I replied. "Those of us who celebrate being Jewish every day of the calendar - we feel close to G-d and we know that He is always near to us. We are proud that G-d gave us the Torah – His special gift to the Jewish people."

"But some Jewish people, who don't really think about being Jewish, need others to remind them of how wonderful it is to celebrate holidays and to feel connected to G-d. They do this in the month of December when the rest of the world shakes them by the shoulders and wakes them up. That's when these Jewish people remember they have a holiday too - Chanukah."

My reaction to the question seemed to satisfy my students, and we continued with the usual festivities throughout the month. Children are so bright and insightful, as well as absolutely adorable. And each year since, as I prepare the menorahs and the dreidls etc., I re-visit that question and my response. Especially this year...

Recently, as I was unwinding from a particularly long and busy day, I decided to watch one of the late night TV shows.... After all, who wants to fall asleep to the crisis and tragedy in the world being broadcast on the Eleven O'Clock News?

popular actresses, starring in a current movie, was being interviewed and asked how she planned to spend the December holidays. She was thrilled to share the news that for the first time in thirty five years she was planning to have "A Tree"..... Now, that probably wouldn't have brought much response from the audience and the host himself, except that this actress is Jewish – born in Jerusalem and grew up on Long Island. "You know, she said, it's kind of every Jew's secret wish to have a Xmas Tree."

Although much of the Jewish world reacted with horror to her statement, I can't say that I was shocked – although it was an exaggeration. I'm a Jew, and I can't say that I ever had the desire for "a Tree". Having grown up in an almost entirely Christian neighborhood in Brooklyn, December was truly a magical month for me. Although my mother, of blessed memory, always made sure that we meticulously observed our holiday – she even created her own Chanukah decorations – cutting and pasting for weeks while wrapping gifts and planning a beautiful Chanukah party for extended family and friends – still the lights, the wreaths and yes, the trees, made our little menorahs seem to pale by comparison. I loved admiring each of my neighbors' magnificent lawns and homes – filled with lights and Santa and reindeer, but I was never envious. All of this belonged to other people. I had my own holiday.

To be totally honest, though, if someone interviewed me and asked me if I would secretly wish to try tasting non-Kosher food, I probably would answer "Absolutely.....But, since, the Torah forbids us from eating these foods, I cannot. They are for others to enjoy." That would be my answer. Bottom line: we are all only human – wanting to partake and experience everything this world has to offer. But sometimes we have to hold back. G-d comes first.

*(continue on next page)*

## BLUE AND WHITE AND RED AND GREEN *(continued)*

Come to think of it... it wasn't just the memories of the December trees that remained with me through the years. Each summer our family would head up to "the mountains" – the Catskills, of course. It wasn't the altitude that took my breath away. Rather, seeing all of the green and lush trees that surrounded us through the drive – I was mesmerized.

Every July, I'd ask my mother the very same question as we approached Monticello, our place of destination.

"Who planted all of these trees?" Her one word answer said it all: "G-d".

As we celebrate Tu B'Shevat – the New Year of the Trees - Jews and non-Jews can all pay tribute to and honor the trees – they belong to everyone. They nurture and protect us. They provide us with shade, with oxygen we so desperately need, with sweet fruit and lumber. The holidays and decorations may long be over, but the everlasting value of the trees remains. Do we measure a person by the clothing he wears or the jewelry that adorns him sometimes? Of course not. What draws us to a human being is his outstanding character and his loving soul. It is the G-dliness within him.

So it is with the trees.... Or, as Joyce Kilmer, the American poet who lived in Mahwah, New Jersey, said it so well..... "Poems are made by fools like me. But only G-d can make a tree."

**Tu B'Shevat Sameach – Happy holiday!**



**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 her at 973-706-5176**

## YELLOW CANDLE™

Every Jewish Community has been touched by the Shoah.  
All of us live in the shadows of Auschwitz.  
Everyone is obligated to remember and to act.

"Light a Candle, Preserve a Memory"

April 24, 2017

Congregation Shaarey Israel Men's Club  
For information call:  
CSI Office (845) 369-0300



## 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



*Celebrate your simcha at  
Congregation Shaarey Israel*

*Rent the Ballroom for  
Weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Sheva Brachas  
Call CSI Office for more info 854-369-0300*



## ADULT EDUCATION AT SHAAREY ISRAEL, WINTER 2017

### **MONDAYS**

#### **FEBRUARY-MARCH**

**A CRASH COURSE IN HEBREW READING  
with Rebetzin Yocheved Weinbach, 7:00pm.**

Monday, 2/13

Monday, 2/20

Monday 2/27

Monday, 3/6

Monday, 3/13

**TUESDAYS with Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach  
at 7:00pm**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Tuesday, 2/7-**NO CLASS**

Tuesday, 2/14-The Human Moshe

Tuesday, 2/21-The Human Moshe

Tuesday, 2/28 – The Human Moshe

#### **MARCH**

Tuesday, 3/7 – Purim: The Folly of Genocide

Tuesday, 3/14 - From Slavery to Freedom:  
4 Ways to an Easy Passover

Tuesday, 3/21 - 4 Children, 4 Answers

Tuesday, 3/28 - 4 Questions, 5 Answers

#### **APRIL**

Tuesday, 4/4 -Torah Thoughts to Share at  
Your Seder

### **WEDNESDAYS**

**Jewish Appreciation** with Lila Stern 7:00pm

**THURSDAYS** Starting February 16, 11:00 am

**Adventures in Midrash**

with Rabbi Elchanan Weinbach

**TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 8:00 P.M.**

**Israeli Dancing** with Karin Sachs

**IN ADDITION JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING  
SHABBAT CLASSES:**

On the following Fridays between 5:30 and  
6:30pm. – **Kabbalat Shabbat for Beginners**

Fridays, February 10<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday mornings after Morning  
Services (11:45-12:15) -

**Talmud & Cholent**

Saturday, 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11  
and 3/25

**CHECK OUT OUR  
new WEB-SITE:**





### Sisterhood Wishing Well

Sisterhood gathers women's toiletries for gift baskets made for the Center for Safety and Change, (formerly Rockland Family Center).

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

## PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKES

**YOU GOTTA BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**



## HEBREW SCHOOL YOUR KIDS WILL WANT TO GO TO

Congregation Shaarey Israel's Hebrew School is like no other!  
**Innovative • Tech-Centered • Hands-on learning**



### OUR PROGRAM OFFERS:

- One day of differentiated Hebrew instruction (Monday)
- Optional day of engaging experiential learning (Wednesday)
- Optional Hebrew Immersion program
- Bat and Bar Mitzvah: kid-centered preparation and projects, working directly with Rabbi Weinbach



We Love Israel



And so will your family!



For more information call 845-770-4191, or visit us online [www.iPadHebrewSchool.org](http://www.iPadHebrewSchool.org)

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL  
 Montebello, NY

**WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION**

### READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?






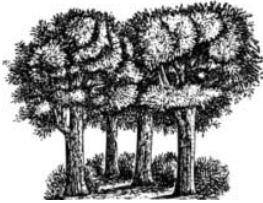







It has been suggested that titles of books be shared with members of our congregation for their enjoyment. Books with a Jewish theme, fiction or non-fiction, are of special interest.

Please e-mail titles and authors, and a few words about the selected book if you wish. E-mail the info to: [roberta@theliemans.com](mailto:roberta@theliemans.com) for inclusion in the next and future issues.

Please patronize *Sisterhood's Gift Shop*

(see ad on page 19)

<p><b><u>Minyons</u></b></p> <p>Weekday evenings Sunday-Thursday: 8 pm</p> <p>Weekday mornings Monday &amp; Thursday: 7:00 am Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Friday: 7:10 am Sunday mornings: 9 am</p> <p>Friday evenings: 6:00 pm</p>	<h1 style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px;">AT A GLANCE</h1>		 <p><b><u>Shabbat Kiddush Fund</u></b> Send donations, payable to CSI, indicate in memo "Kiddush Fund." Planning a Kiddush?</p>
	<p><b><u>Kaddish</u></b> The Rabbi &amp; minyonaires will say yearly Kaddish for members &amp; and non-members. Contributions are made payable to: <i>Congregation Shaarey Israel</i>. Call the office, 369-0300.</p>	<p><b><u>Forever Young Seniors</u></b> Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at CSI. Call Barbara Kleinman 352-0315</p> 	 <p>Coupons from General Mills products can be redeemed for money and used to purchase supplies for our school. Bring coupons to CSI office</p>
<p><b><u>Dedication Opportunities</u></b> 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><b><u>Anniversary Shabbat</u></b> February 3 March 3 April 7 May 5</p>	<p><b><u>College Students</u></b> Please call the office with the names and addresses of your college students so that Sisterhood can send them <b>The Scroll</b> and packages for the holidays.</p>	
<p><b><u>Donor Cards</u></b> 3 cards for \$10 or one to be mailed for \$4/card Call Esther Ingber 845-354-3787</p> 	<p><b><u>Gift Shop</u></b> Call Louisa DePaola 533-4069 for your gift-giving</p> 	 <p><b><u>Gates of Zion Cemetery</u></b> 845-352-3102 gatesofzioncemetery@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>JNF Trees</u></b> \$12/tree Mail checks (payable to CSI) with all info to: <b>Roberta Lieman</b> 4312 Warrens Way Wanaque, NJ 07465 973-706-5176</p>
<p><b><u>Update your aliyah card info</u></b> Contact the office with up-dates</p>	<p><b><u>Going Green</u></b> 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 <b>CSI website:</b> congshaareyisrael.org</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>The Scroll...15</b></p>

# CHAT LITES

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10 Charles & Paulette Frankel  
11 Paul & Suzanne Savad  
23 Norton & Dale Smith



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Arielle Benjamin  
Lindsey Bernstein  
Daniel Haberman  
Rachel Katz  
Debra Ann Sapir  
Alyssa Scheinson  
Marci Smith



## Welcome New Member...

Dianne Press

## Condolences to...

Marsha Forman on the loss of her beloved father

## 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



## **Israeli Dancing**

**led by Karin Sachs**  
**Tuesdays at 7:30 pm**  
**in the Ballroom**



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



## Letters and Info of Note...

Dear Congregation Shaarey Israel,

I am truly overwhelmed by emotions every time I think of all the love and good wishes I received from you during my recovery from my hip surgery. It was so helpful and comforting to know how you were all there for me if I needed you. Thank you so much for all your prayers for my complete and speedy recovery!

Well it worked! Thank you so much for everything you all have done! Elchanan and I feel so blessed and privileged that we are able to be part of your warm and special shul!

With much gratitude and love,  
♥ Yocheved



Thanks to all my friends at Congregation Shaarey Israel who have showed their concern for me after my recent knee surgery. Your phone calls and cards helped me get "back on my feet."

Loretta Burton

### **MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR SWEEPSTAKES**

first drawing is March 1st

Remember to send in your \$10 for each  
ticket you want.

**YOU GOTTA BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

### **PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE...**

Cantor Menachem & Chana Bazian

will once again lead us in our

CSI Community Seder

Tuesday night, April 11, 2017.

Details to follow.



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL DAY

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY  
SUNDAY EVENING APRIL 23, 2017  
THROUGH MONDAY APRIL 24, 2017**

Alan Moskin, a WWII JWV and Concentration Camp Liberator, will speak to the Congregation on Shabbat morning, April 22. Plan to attend. He has an amazing story to tell of his experience as a liberator.

## CSI Funds & Contributors...

### *Congregation Shaarey Israel*

In memory of Harper Ayva Fried  
Ilene & Jeff Landsman  
In honor of Audrey Meister Israel Bond  
Woman's Division Honoree  
Red Avner  
Ditza & Bill Bradin  
Robin & Barry Haberman  
Rona & Carl Paley  
Charna & Bill Weissman  
In honor of the marriage of Jillian Egenberg &  
Leonardo Stivelman  
Randi Bayroff  
In honor of the birth of Cantor Menachem &  
Chana Bazian's granddaughter  
Dale & Dr. Norton Smith  
In memory of Norman Schlissel  
Joan & Joel Black

### *Candy Fund*

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Nifco  
Esther & Marty Ingber

### *Debra Ann Harbus Memorial Fund*

In honor of Audrey Meister our honoree for  
Israel Bonds Woman's division  
Pearl & Lenny Harbus  
In honor of Bruce Weinfeld Town of Ramapo  
Jewish Life Night honoree  
Pearl & Lenny Harbus  
In memory of our beloved daughter Debra Ann  
Harbus  
Pearl & Lenny Harbus  
In memory of Sy Frichner  
Pearl & Leonard Harbus  
In memory of Harper Ayva Fried  
Pearl & Leonard Harbus

### *Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial Scholarship Fund*

In memory of Norman Schlissel  
Joyce and Michelle trubitz  
AnnBeth and Ilan Nifco & Family  
Carol and Don Trager  
In honor of Alexandra Leila Nifco's Bat Mitzvah  
Mimi and Sy Marenberg  
Dale and Norton Smith  
Lois and Allen Bashoff  
The Solid Daleds  
Michelle Trubitz  
Mimi and Sy Marenberg  
Speedy recovery to our Rebbetzin Yocheved  
Weinbach  
Joyce Trubitz & Family  
Speedy recovery to Loretta Burton  
Lois Price  
Thank you to Danny Kwilecki for your kindness  
Joyce Trubitz

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

**DEANNA SIMON (368-2641)**

**Sunshine Fund** (\$10 minimum)  
dedicated to Bikor Cholim  
**Sisterhood** (\$10 minimum)

**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)

**JOYCE TRUBITZ (352-2928)**

**Abe & Mildred Dworkin Memorial  
Scholarship Fund**

Sisterhood is selling  
**Shop-Rite Gift Cards**



Good At Any Store ~ No Expiration Date

Great For Your Grocery Shopping!  
Handy when you don't have time  
to go to the ATM!

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



## ***DONOR CARDS***

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

Contact  
**Esther Ingber**  
@354-3787



## **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](mailto:gatesofzioncemetery@gmail.com)

## **Check Out CSI SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP Something for everyone**

New line of Men's Suede and Knitted  
Kippot. Theme yamulkes: Toy story,  
Batman, Mickey Mouse etc. Baby



kippot with ties.



Special orders on embossed  
kippot for your party.

New line of jewelry "BELLE  
BIJOUX and Pandora style bracelets.

"Fun for Kids" section: wooden "paper" dolls to  
color, bat & ball, sticker books, games and  
puzzles.

Hostess gifts: Teapots, serving dishes,  
honey pots for Rosh



Hashannah, pedestal  
plates, baking sets, candles and more.

20% off on all Judaica jewelry:  
Star of David, Hamsas & chains.

**Come in and take a look.**

Call:

Louisa DePaola - 845-533-4069  
[louisad10964@gmail.com](mailto:louisad10964@gmail.com)

## Thank You

To all who have donated  
to one of the many funds  
we appreciate your support.



### Sponsor a Shalosh Seudos

**In memory or in honor of a loved one**

**All it takes is a  
\$150 donation to CSI  
and a call to the office**



### RHODA BLOOM KOSHER FOOD PANTRY



CSI is collecting cookies  
for the food pantry

Call Sandra Chaitin 845-727-4199

## INTERESTING...

Many kinds of animals tend to live in groups. We know fish have schools, wolves have packs and cattle have herds, but English is such a rich language that most animal groups have their own, unique name.

A group of woodpeckers is called a Descent  
A group of kangaroos is a Mob or a Troop  
A group of flamingos group are called a Flamboyance

Hamsters become a Horde  
Zebras group into a Zeal or a Dazzle  
Bunch bears together and you get a Sleuth  
Badgers, bunched together are a Company

Wombats become a Wisdom  
Finches in a group are a Charm  
A group of eagles are a Convocation  
Larks are Exaltation or Ascension

A group of crows are a Murder  
Sharks swim in Shivers  
Chicks flock in Peeps

A group of frogs are an Army  
Seals are a Pod, a Harem or Bob  
Elephants come in a Memory  
Fox together, are a Leash, Skulk, or Troop  
A group of porcupines makes for a Prickle  
Owls are a Parliament

A group of apes are called a Shrewdness  
A hippo herd is known as a Bloat  
A swarm of butterflies is called a Flutter  
Bring baboons together and you get a troop  
Cheetahs form Coalition

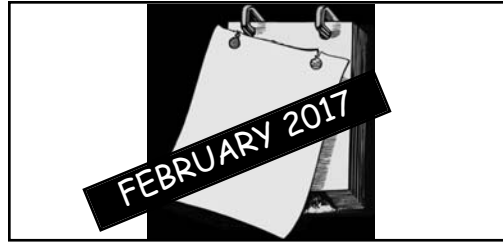


## Forever Young Seniors

meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

For information on events call:  
Barbara Kleinman 352-0315





<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
1	Forever Young Seniors	Multi-purpose Rm	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
1	Jewish Appreciation	Rm 2	7:30 pm	Lila Stern
2	Sister. Board Meeting	Multi-purpose Rm	7:30 pm	Julie Feldman
3	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
3	Anniversary Shabbot			
4	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
7	Men's Club Meeting	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Mark Pfeffer
7	Israeli Dancing	Multi-purpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
8	Jewish Appreciation	Rm 2	7:30 pm	Lila Stern
9	Private Room Rental			
10	Kabbalat Shabbat	Sanctuary	5:30 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
10	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
10	Tu B'shevat Shabbos Dinner		7:00 pm	Program Committee
11	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
11	Talmud & Cholent		11:45 am	
13	Crash Course In Hebrew	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Yocheved Weinbach
14	The Human Moshe	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
14	Israeli Dancing	Multi-purpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
15	Forever Yong Seniors	Multi-purpose Rm	11:00 am	Barbara Kleinman
15	Jewish Appreciation	Rm 2	7:30 pm	Lila Stern
16	Adventures In Midrash	Rm 2	11:00 am	Rabbi Weinbach
17	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
18	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
19	Private Room Rental			
20	Budget/Finance Meeting		7:00 pm	Joe Moscovic
20	Crash Course In Hebrew	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Yocheved Weinbach
21	The Human Moshe	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
21	Israeli Dancing	Multi-purpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs
22	Jewish Appreciation	Rm 2	7:30 pm	Lila Stern
23	Adventures In Midrash	Rm 2	11:00 am	Rabbi Weinbach
23	Board Of Trustees	Multi-purpose Rm	7:30 pm	Mimi Marenberg
24	Services	Sanctuary	6:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
25	Services	Sanctuary	8:45 am	Rabbi Weinbach
27	Crash Course In Hebrew	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Yocheved Weinbach
28	The Human Moshe	Rm 2	7:00 pm	Rabbi Weinbach
28	Israeli Dancing	Multi-purpose Rm	8:00 pm	Karin Sachs