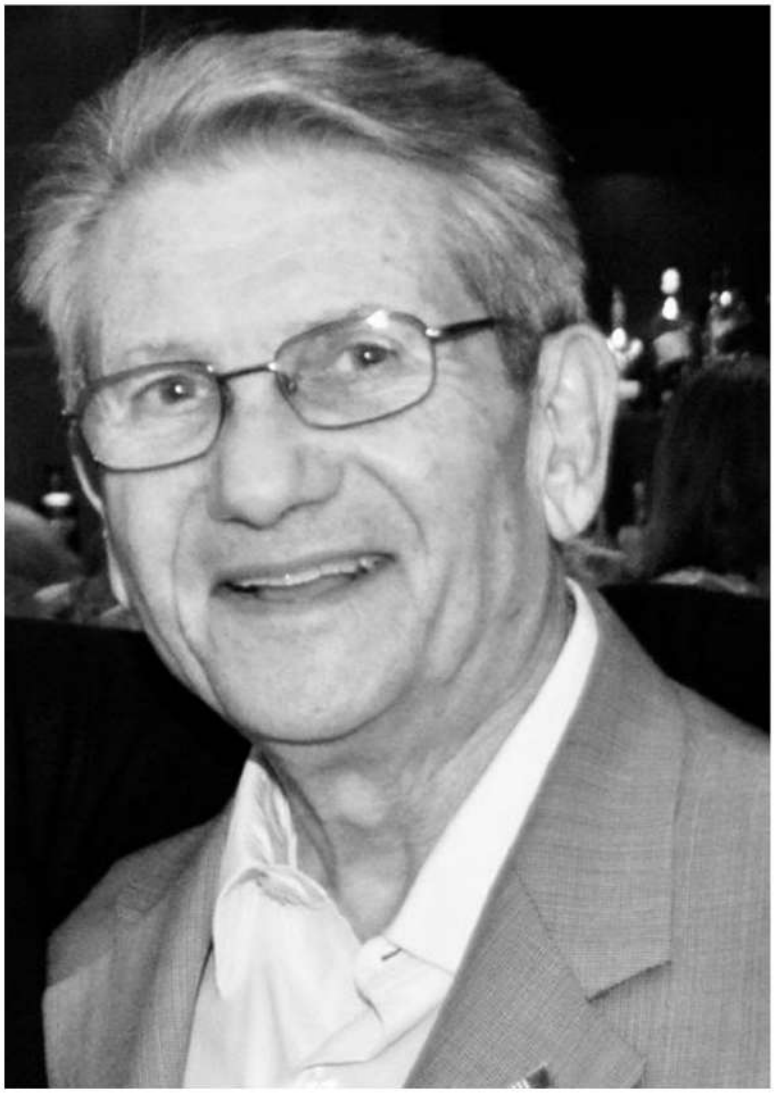
The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

March 2021



In Memorium

Remembering our esteemed friend, congregant, and CBI President

Paul Skulsky

פסח בן שמואל הלוי

We will celebrate Paul's life on

June 27, 2021

with a memorial service
for his family and friends

More details to follow

May his memory be a blessing in our lives

After a very snowy February, there are signs that the Spring season is approaching: Warmer sunny days, flowers in bloom, and, of course, the upcoming celebration of Passover.

Commonly known as the Festival of Matzah, or the Festival of Freedom, celebrating the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom, Passover is also referred to as the Spring Festival, recognizing the beginning of an agricultural season which imparts a sense of joy and new opportunity.

And what is more joyful than a Passover seder?

Sharing tasty memories and keeping traditions with family and friends is what makes this holiday so special. This year, the Pandemic is still impacting gatherings, but it doesn't mean your Seder can't be lively and meaningful and safe. Host your own Virtual Passover Seder!

Enjoy the link below to get a comprehensive "how-to" for planning and preparing a Stay-at-Home seder. With the use of a little technology and some ingenuity, this holiday may turn out to be even more memorable than in years past. https://www.heyalma.com/how-to-host-a-virtual-passover-seder/.

We also invite you and your guests to participate in CBI's "Second Night" Virtual Seder led by Rabbi Abe. See details in this issue of The Scoop.

Wishing you and your family a Sweet Pesach and a renewed season of growth and hope.

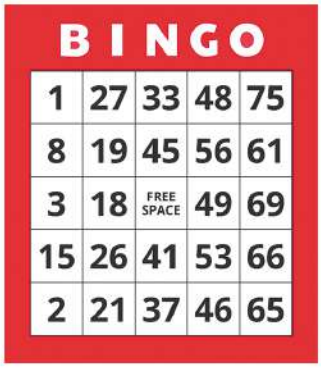
The CBI Scoop Editorial Team

Sponsor a Shabbat, you ask? Yes, you've read that right! But we are on Zoom now, and there's no Kiddush. True, but there are still expenses involved in conducting services on Zoom, and you can be the person who dedicates and sponsors a Shabbat in honor of a loved one. You will be acknowledged for this, both by the Rabbi in real-time and on the screen. You get to honor a loved one, and CBI benefits from your generosity ($36). Win-win.

The February Shabbatot were sponsored by:
--Stan Rothman (in honor of his birthday)
--Anonymous (to honor Paul Skuslky)
--Anonymous (for an early return to regular services)
--Anonymous (good wishes to all)

Which Shabbat would you like to sponsor? Tell Ronnie Liebman at 516-781-8630.

And remember, our service starts each Shabbat at **10 AM** at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8437536779.



Congratulations to our February Big Winners.

Lina & Michael Newman will be hosting the next BINGO event on **March 21, 2021, @ 2:00 PM.**

Bonus: 50-50 Raffle at Half-Time*

Please RSVP by **March 11** by contacting Lina at linanewman26@gmail.com or 704-773-3901.

All supplies will be sent to you upon registering and paying the **$18 game fee**. You, of course, are welcome to buy additional bingo cards. Make online payments here.

Reach out to Lina for more info.
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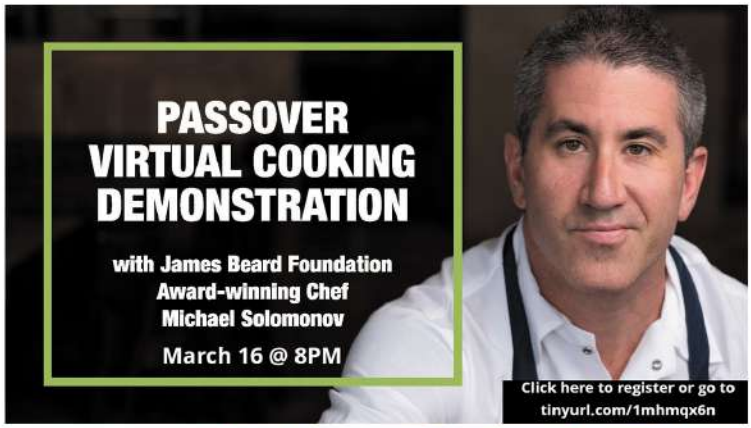
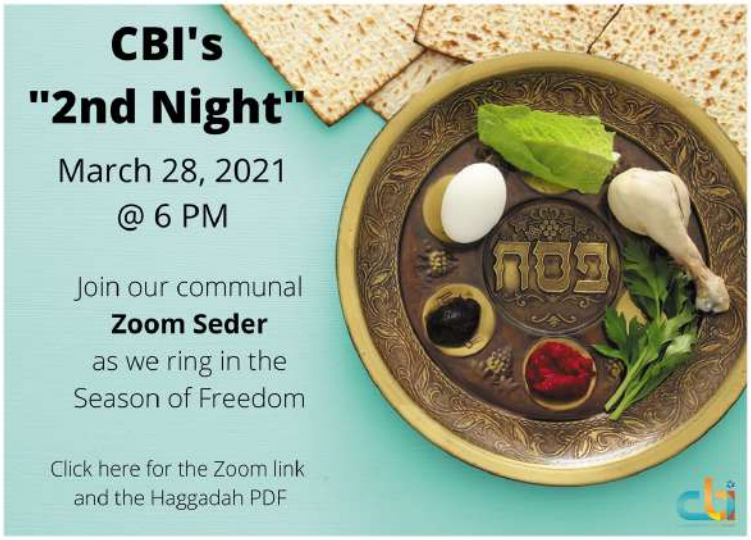
*Raffle tickets will be sold during the Bingo game. You keep 50% of the jackpot, CBI keeps the other half.

Upcoming Events





The Rabbi Speaks

Dear congregant and friend,

Oh, what a difference a year makes.

We are officially past the first-year mark of Covid-19 when we canceled in-person services and the world as we knew it ceased to exist. Last month I wrote to you about there being more than 400,000 fatalities in the U.S., and as of this writing, it's already more than 500,000!

The New York Times put that number into perspective by creating a graphic with 500,000 dots, each one representing a Covid victim. It's worth taking a look at and makes one realize the enormity of the tragedy.

But as the theme of The Scoop last month made clear about the vaccinations and their positive impact, we are seeing the decline of Covid-19 cases and their fatalities. If we do our part by still remaining cautious until we all get vaccinated, we should hopefully be seeing each other in person soon enough.

This past month, we also saw the passing of one of our dearest members and President, **Paul Skulsky**, of blessed memory.

Paul's Hebrew name was Pesach, the Hebrew word for Passover, the holiday of Freedom that we will be celebrating this month.

If there's anything that can be said about Paul, it was that he was an optimist par excellence, always "passing over" and never focusing on the hurdles so that he could reserve that energy to find solutions to fix the problems.

Paul held CBI as one of the greatest loves of his life. He put in hours and hours in trying to fix its challenges, and he always expressed to me his warm feelings for it and his desire for its success throughout my tenure here as Rabbi.

And at his funeral, I learned that his predilection for helping CBI goes a long way back before I arrived on the scene. It was there that his dear wife, Trish, handed me a diary of his from 2009 to peruse through to gain a grasp on the inner and private mind of Paul.

And there it was: In one of the entries, he expressed his positive feelings about the challenge to help CBI and how to help it overcome its financial shortcomings.

Paul was always at it, and CBI has much for which to be grateful to him.

Now Paul is no longer with us in the physical sense, but we all know that there's nothing more that he'd want: that we don't mourn him in a way that plunges us into inertia, but, rather, that we celebrate his life and utilize the feeling and the energy that his loss emotes to make this organization and synagogue that much greater and stronger.

As Passover/Pesach (Paul) visits us once again, I wish you all a season of Freedom like none other before, where we all find that the world really is opening up and that our community, with Paul as our spiritual inspiration, starts growing and fulfilling its potential.

A very warm, spirited, and happy Passover,
Rabbi Abe

The President's Corner

When Paul Skulsky was diagnosed with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy, it was becoming increasingly more difficult for him to handle the demands of the presidency. He hated to rely on anyone. I begged him to please concentrate on getting better and to allow me to concentrate on CBI. He agreed because he always wanted to do what was best for CBI.

We both remained optimistic that I would be giving him his job back soon, but as hard as Paul fought, that wasn't in the cards.

I had the honor and privilege of knowing Paul for more than 10 years. I never expected that he'd be gone so soon. Paul's dedication and love for CBI were unsurpassed. Over the years, he held many jobs and wore many hats. He was our Shamus for the shul. He was treasurer, comptroller, ritual chairperson, executive vice president, and president twice.

Paul was the smiling face you saw when you entered the building. He was our in-house photographer. He made sure the chairs for the High Holiday services were set up and came early in the morning to help build the sukkah. Paul was there for everyone and everything. If someone needed to get into the temple, he came to open the door. If someone needed a ride, he was the chauffeur. If a minyan was needed, he arranged it.

He went above and beyond.

When a congregant needed financial help for the funeral arrangements of their spouse, Paul collected donations. When the son of a congregant was ill and needed airfare to go to Europe for special medical treatment, Paul made it happen.

Paul and I were a team for several years. When I was president, he was my executive vice president and when he was president, I was his executive vice president. I knew I could always count on his support. Paul brought many new ideas to our once traditional synagogue. It was his idea to purchase the electronic memorial board and to computerize the office.

He pushed to update our website and allow electronic payments. These ideas were not initially popular, but they all turned out to be correct. Paul was instrumental in bringing Rabbi Abe to us and was encouraging and supportive of him. I am thankful Paul was able to see the many positive changes at CBI.

On a personal level, I will miss Paul. We shared so many moments together and became close friends. I honestly don't know how he can be replaced.

Hopefully, together as a congregation, if we all step up our game, we can make Paul proud. Let the memory of Paul Skulsky remain in our hearts and let us pledge to carry his ideas and spirit forward.

Sincerely,
Richard S. Krauss

Who doesn't love being remembered on their birthday or anniversary?

Let members and friends of our CBI community feel good by sending them a personalized greeting for their celebratory occasions.

For a $2 donation (per name), we'll do all the work. You won't have to make a trip to buy a card or even buy stamps. Let us know who you would like to acknowledge by selecting names from the Simcha list below and mail your list to CBI, along with the total amount due for this fundraiser. Your name and good wishes will be included in the card mailed to them.

Please make your selections and send your written list and payment by **March 12**, so we can start preparing the cards. For more info, please contact Ronnie at 516-781-8630.

Mail to: Cong. Beth Israel
141 Hilton Avenue
Cathedral Gardens, NY 11550
Attn: Marianne Baker or Ronnie Klein-Liebman

Your support of this fundraising program is appreciated.

March Birthdays

- Richard Krauss
- Stanley Small
- Patty Rothstein
- Marilyn Kushner
- Lois Glanzer
- Ken Goldberg
- Linda Levine

March Anniversary

- Angela & Abraham Sabbas

April Birthdays

- Lynn Sevan
- Linda Bindler
- Leslie Rosen
- Rita Bouer
- Marion Salomon
- Terry Goldsmith
- Nancy Goldsmith
- Ilene Rothschild
- Alexander Susnovski
- Frida Brodsky

April Anniversaries

- Christin & Jay Steinger
- Dana & Kevin Brandes
- Suellen & Barry Agulnick

March Yahrzeits

- Ruth Volin 3-03
- Max Reasenberg 3-04
- Marvin Levy 3-05
- Fannie Kleine 3-06
- Morris Goldsmith 3-07
- Siegfried Rothschild 3-08
- Isaac Rosenkranz 3-09
- Joseph Brass 3-10
- Adele Small 3-10
- George Weitz 3-10
- George Coon 3-11
- Abraham Kaputkin 3-11
- Lee Schoenfeld 3-12
- Rose Skulsky 3-15
- Julian Levi 3-16
- H. Robert Levine 3-18
- Samy Baruch 3-19
- Solomon Janvey 3-19
- Sender Levine 3-19
- Seymour Weitz 3-19
- Martha Levy 3-20
- Irene Weisman 3-20
- Martin Rubin 3-22
- Michael Liebman 3-23
- Lena Soblick 3-24
- Jack Schnuer 3-25
- Yetta Levine 3-26
- Lawrence Rothschild 3-26
- Jacob Schutzman 3-26
- Bessie Rutzisky 3-28
- Yetta Abo 3/30
- Essie Cohen 3/31
- David Lovinger 3/31

Contributions

In Memoriam & Yahrzeits

Abe Sabbas: (in memory of my parents, Eftihia & Leon Sabbas)
Sondra Bernstein: (for the Yahrzeit of my husband, Marvin Bernstein)
Alan Mantis: (in memory of my beloved wife, Adrienne N Mantis, and our cousin, Marvin Fricklas)

Mazel Tov, Thanks & Wellwishers

Ellen & Stan Rothman: (in honor of Lina and Michael Newman for their work in making Bingo a success)
Lina Newman: (to honor her grandson's birthday)
Sondra Bernstein: (in appreciation for the birthday wishes from Marianne Baker, Alan Mantis & CBI)

General Donation

Ilene & Robert Rothschild: (for a wonderful Kabbalat Shabbat service)
Carole Cinnamon: (for the lecture and comedy night)
Susan Bass: (for the lecture and comedy night)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Muriel Levine: (in appreciation of his thoughtfulness, caring, and help, and to Paul Skulsky in appreciation of his extraordinary help
Miranda Salomon: (two donations, to thank the Rabbi for his help)
Lorriane Albert & Family
Ben Feldman
Paul Skulsky (obm)
Jeffrey Skulsky (thank you for your help)
Russell Bourrienn

Chai חי Club

Our Chai Club is a newly-formed club that supports CBI. It works by donating $18 on the 18th of each month. You can contribute online or send a check to CBI. Activities for Chai Club members will start as soon as the pandemic allows. Contact Ronnie Liebman at 516-781-8630 for all the details.

Thank you for you donation:

Lynn Sevan | Ronnie Liebman
Lina Newman | Roberta Bouer
Alan Mantis | Lois Glanzer
Elyse Zuckerman | Marianne Baker

Promote Your Business

Looking to promote your business, professional services, or the opening of a new venture?

Consider supporting our synagogue by advertising in our monthly newsletter.
Please contact Lina Newman at
linanewman26@gmail.com or 704-773-3901 for more info.

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