



THE PUP TENT

Congregation Beth Jacob's Monthly Newsletter

July, 2020

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

For the protection of our congregants, all previously scheduled meetings, Shabbat services, group activities, and social events have been canceled or postponed until further notice, in view of the current coronavirus pandemic. **Watch this space for updates on when our synagogue building will be reopened and scheduled meetings and events will resume.**

SHABBAT!



During the time when Shabbat services are suspended, a "Virtual Shabbat Service," with links to essential blessings, prayers and songs, as well as Rabbi Silverman's weekly message/sermon, is being published in the Weekly Update. CBJ has also been conducting Shabbat services via **Zoom**, a teleconferencing computer application. See the "CBJ Weekly Update" for information on how to connect to these services using Zoom.

If you do not currently receive the "Weekly Update," please send an email message to Judith Sherman at judith.sherman@gmail.com, and she will be happy to add you to the distribution list.



Rabbi Silverman's Sermon on June 5, 2020

(This sermon was delivered at the virtual Shabbat service on June 5, 2020, in response to the slaying of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, and in condemnation of racial inequality in society and judicial systems in the US and worldwide .)

Not many years ago. it was in 2016, Colin Kaepernick, quarterback for the San Francisco 49'ers, upset many fans and players and people in management when he dropped to one knee for the playing of the National Anthem. He would not stand at attention, let alone put his hand over his heart or salute, as some of his colleagues did. He literally wanted to show his disrespect for the country being proclaimed as the "land of the free." The freedoms of this country were denied to people like himself, a dark-skinned man. The 49'ers team eventually let him go; and the following year, no other team made him an offer. He turned away from football and founded a camp: Know Your Rights Camp, it is called; and children, girls and boys, go to Kaepernick's camp to rejoice in the project of growing up to be who they are. Almost all of them are kids of color; and they have been learning their "Ten Rights;" and they have been learning to rejoice in who they are.

Just before our service began, at seven o'clock this evening, Roger Goodell, the Commissioner of the National Football League, decided to speak out, with everything that's going on, and acknowledged that something has been wrong with our country, and that he and the NFL have to do something about it. Among other things, it was tantamount to an apology to Colin Kaepernick. Several years ago Colin Kaepernick dropped to his knee to protest that the same rights were not extended to all our citizens. Ten days ago a policeman dropped to his knee and squeezed the life out of a black man.

Our Torah teaches us that every human being is created in the image of God. For far too long, African-Americans have been treated as less than fully human and have often paid with their lives because, for generations, there were always white Americans who did not value the lives of people who were enslaved and, today, of people of color generally. The Torah does not tell us the skin-color of Adam and Eve, only that they are the father and mother of all humanity. To quote another religious leader, Mahatma Gandhi, "All Human Beings are Brothers and Sisters." Skin-color was irrelevant in the Book of Genesis. All of us human beings are descended from the same ancestors.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught that "There is an evil which many of us condone and are even guilty of, and that is indifference to evil." How often do we try to stay out of it, be neutral, in the face of injustice being committed against someone else! That injustice is also being committed against ourselves, though we may not want to acknowledge it. Mayor Muriel Bowser of the City of Washington declared the end of the "state of emergency" hanging over her city, when it became clear that the protesters were not vandals, but old people and young people, mothers and fathers, who were taking a stand against a great evil that had been committed: a great evil that was part of a greater evil.

I believe that we, the members of our CBJ community, are not going to be indifferent. We support the right of protesters to express their freedom of speech in a peaceful manner. And we yearn for the day when the words of one of our Psalms become a reality: "Hee-nay mah tohv oo-mah nah-eem sheh-veht ah-cheem gahm yah-chahd" – "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133, Verse 1).

You may contact Rabbi Silverman by phone (508-746-0010) or by email at (rabbilawrence@gmail.com).



The Following Yahrzeits Will be Observed in July:
(A memorial candle should be lit on the preceding evening.)

July 2020

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Robert Donald Schwartz | 16 Julia Snapper |
| 2 Frances Strauch | 17 Norman Hollander |
| 3 Joseph S. Cohen | 17 Helen L. Shiff |
| 3 Florence Efron | 18 Elizabeth Greene |
| 4 Kurt Weishaupt | 18 Seymour Lutzky |
| 6 Sadie Addis | 19 Melvin "Manny" Mann |
| 7 Edward R. Bloom | 21 Mary Edith Goldstein |
| 7 Lena Milner Koblantz | 21 Gladys Reuben |
| 7 Hyman Romanow | 22 Meyer Cohen |
| 7 Raymond Russo | 23 Abraham Green |
| 9 Esther Aranowitz | 24 Julius Cohen |
| 9 Joseph Feinberg | 24 Jean Sackheim Feinberg |
| 9 John Martini | 24 Rebecca Lavine |
| 11 Harry Minsky | 24 Jacob Veiner |
| 11 Jack Minsky | 25 Joseph Carlin |
| 11 Katherine P. Toabe | 26 Samuel Koblantz |
| 12 Melinda Hightower | 26 Esther Wisoff |
| 12 Selma Leopold | 27 Lena Handlin |
| 14 Roslyn Jarmel | 29 Leo Abramson |
| 16 Toby Freedman Aharoni | 29 Bert Sternfield |
| 16 Mary Cohen | 30 Ada Ratick |
| 16 William Kirschner | 31 Judah James Evans |

May their memories be for a blessing and live forever in the hearts of all who knew and loved them.



Congregation Beth Jacob gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

Yahrzeit Fund:

- Sherman Geller & Susan Levin - in memory of Sherman's mother, Rose Sherman Geller
- Richard & Linda Rothstein - in memory of Richard's mother, Faye Rothstein
- Jerry & Laura Treppel - in memory of Jerry's father, Maurice Treppel

Rabbi's Mitzvah Fund:

Gifts to the Rabbi's Mitzvah Fund In Recognition of Yom Ha-Shoah:

- Jesilyn Isabel
- Judy and Andrew Kusmin
- Jackie and Steve Winokur

Other Recent Gifts to the Rabbi's Mitzvah Fund:

- Vickie Sachs - in memory of her Father, Edward Greenberg, and in memory of her Mother, Cecile Greenberg, and in memory of her Brother, Morri Greenberg
- Avo and Helene Hodosh-Zaytounian - in memory of her Mother, Sylvia Hodosh
- Mike and Sandy Schwartz, celebrating the birth and Naming of their Grandson, Ralph David Schwartz, son of Adam and Rachel Walman-Schwartz



**Recipe of the Month:
Ruth Sherman's Cranberry Spice Cake**

(This recipe was published in **The Best Little Cookbook in Town**, as submitted by Ruth Sherman (z'l). Ruth was Allan Sherman's mother, and her Cranberry Spice Cake was legendary.

Ingredients:

3/4 c. margarine or butter
1-1/2 c. sugar
3 eggs

3 c. flour (scant)
1-1/2 tsp. baking soda
1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. cloves or allspice
1/2 tsp. salt

3/4 c. raisins
3/4 c. chopped nuts
1 (1 lb.) can whole cranberry sauce

Cream shortening and sugar well using mixer. Add eggs. Sift dry ingredients and add to batter on slow speed until thick. Dredge raisins and nuts in flour and add to batter alternatively by hand with cranberry sauce, being careful not to crush the cranberries.

Bake in two 9x5" loaf pans at 350 degrees for about 45-50 minutes (40-45 minutes if using a dark pan). Test with a toothpick. This tastes just like honey cake! Enjoy!



Laughter Corner

Chelm, a real Polish town, was in Jewish folklore inhabited by fools whose antics kept Jews amused for generations. When presented with some difficulty these “sages” of Chelm think, they think some more, and they cook up the dumbest solution imaginable. Here are some examples:

The Fire

A fire broke out one night in the city of Chelm and all the inhabitants rushed to the fiercely burning building to extinguish the blaze. When the conflagration had been put out, the rabbi mounted a table and addressed the citizens:

“My friends, this fire was a miracle sent from heaven above.”

There were murmurs of surprise in the crowd, and the rabbi hastened to explain.

“Look at it this way,” he said. “If it were not for the bright flames, how would we have been able to see how to put the fire out on such a dark night?”

It’s the Pits

A group of citizens in the town of Chelm were busily engaged in digging a foundation for the new synagogue, when a disturbing thought occurred to one of the laborers.

“What are we going to do with all this earth we’re digging up?” he asked. “We certainly can’t just leave it here where our temple will be built.” There was a hubbub of excitement as the men rested on their spades and pondered the question. Suggestions were made and just as quickly rejected.

Suddenly one of the Chelmites smiled and held his hand up for silence. “I have the solution,” he proclaimed. “We will make a deep pit, and into it we’ll shovel all this earth we’re digging up for the synagogue!”

A round of applause greeted this proposal, until another Chelmite raised his voice in protest. “That won’t work at all! What will we do with the earth from the pit?” There was a stunned silence as the men tried to cope with this new problem, but the first Chelmite soon provided the answer.

“It is all very simple,” he said. “We’ll dig another pit, and into that one we’ll shovel all the earth we’re digging now, and all the earth we take out of the first pit. The only thing we must be careful about is to make the second pit twice as large as the first one.”

There was no arguing with this example of Chelmic wisdom, and the workers returned to their digging.

Editor’s Note: “The Pup Tent” is a monthly publication that provides a condensed summary of CBJ news, including the monthly Calendar, upcoming Yahrzeit dates, and acknowledgments of donations that have been received. The “CBJ Weekly Update” is our weekly email newsletter that includes full details about upcoming events, as well as information about the weekly Torah reading portion and helpful links to various resources. **To subscribe to the CBJ Weekly Update, please contact me at judith.sherman@gmail.com.** Thank you!

Judith Sherman, Editor, “The Pup Tent” and “CBJ Weekly Update”