Shomrei Emunah

Senior Retreat Weekend

I”H Shomrei Emunah is planning a weekend November 18th- 20th at the Pearlstone Retreat Center for Seniors, 55 and over (for couples, at least one spouse should be 55 or over). The weekend will be hosted by Rabbi and Dr. Marwick in conjunction with our weekend program directors Eli and Ronnie Schlossberg and Murray and Baila Jacobson.

This weekend will be fun, spiritual, and a mini vacation following Succos and taking place a week before Thanksgiving. The weekend may include Seniors from other shuls for a wonderful Shabbos filled with Divrei Torah, Zmiros, entertainment, and a Heimishe weekend for all to enjoy.

The cost for the entire weekend is $860 per room for double occupancy and $475 per room for single occupancy. This includes all meals and the 2- night hotel stay starting Friday at 1 pm check-in and going through Sunday morning check-out at 10 am. Pearlstone has just undergone a 5 million dollar renovation as we have added 25 additional sleeping rooms and other facilities.

There will be Friday night dinner, continental breakfast Shabbos morning, a Kiddush following Davening, Shabbos Lunch, Seudas Shlishis, Melava Malka, maybe a camp fire, and a gala breakfast Sunday morning. If you get hungry visit our tea room for great goodies.

It I”H will be a very special gathering at a very special place only 30 minutes or less from most of your homes, but you will be on 180 acres of rolling hills amongst forest and corn fields, so you will feel far away from home on a mini vacation. The bright star- studded night sky, and the ambience of Pearlstone, its farm, its lake, its vineyards and animals will make for a superb weekend all will enjoy. But the best thing of this weekend will be you, our special guests, as you will make it all so special. We will relax, chill out, bond, schmooze over meals and in our special tea room for a Torah filled weekend, beautiful Tefilla and delicious food.

Early Bird Special- Save $30 for double occupancy rooms and $15 for single occupancy rooms

To plan this weekend, the first 15 to book a room will receive a special rate of $830 for a double occupancy room or a special rate of $460 for a single occupancy room. We already have 3 reservations!   
  
To reserve your spot, send in a deposit of $430 for a double occupancy room or $235 for a single occupancy room. Make the check out to Shomrei Emunah and mail to Eli W. Schlossberg at 3207 Fallstaff Road, Baltimore, 21215. The balance will be due October 1, 2022. No refunds, but you can substitute another couple/single if you are unable to come.

Eli W. Schlossberg

Shomrei Representative

Innkeeper

Pearlstone Retreat Center

By Eli W. Schlossberg

Author of My Shtetl Baltimore

I have served as a very proud member of the board of Pearlstone from its inception in 2001. Pearlstone today, 2021, is a 180 acre earth based retreat and conference center and an organic working farm complex just 24 minutes from Pikesville. Once you arrive at Pearlstone driving through forest lined roads and bountiful cornfields, you are in the beautiful picturesque outdoors and far, far from the hustle and bustle of city and suburban living. You have entered the beautiful rural country side. You are about to witness a lovely sunset and at night you will look up to the sky and see the bright stars and vast heavens. You may experience a campfire singing and roasting kosher marshmallows or sit by our warm toasty fireplaces in our lobby or lounges. Then you will experience a very restful deep sleep in one of our newly redecorated guest bedrooms. You will be awakened by the crowing of Pearlstone roosters in the morning and enjoy watching Pearlstone goats grazing in our grassy pastures and our squawking chickens running about. The fresh air is refreshing so take deep breaths and suck it all in. Take a morning stroll and visit a large pond for boating and soon be licensed for fishing and visit 2 large outdoor swimming pools. We now have a flowing stream with two Mikvaous. Ride our zip line. Visit our farm and gardens or pick strawberries and blueberries…. Our newly planted vineyards will yield 1,000 bottles of Pearlstone wine in a few years. Welcome to The Pearlstone!

Culinary Farm to Table

The Pearlstone kitchen is a certified OU kosher facility. It is run by a master chef and a very talented very hard working staff and its farm to table culinary excellence delights its guests with healthy farm fresh offerings and delicious meals. We take great pride in our culinary treats feeding our thousands of guests in our dining rooms. We have a wonderful coffee bar and superb snacks in between meals.

Our Guests

The diversity of guests is quite remarkable as The Pearlstone has Jewish, non- Jewish, Christian, Muslim, meditation groups, corporate groups, youth groups and all sorts of groups visiting its very beautiful facility. Spiritual seminars, yoga retreats, meditation retreats, silence retreats, hobby groups, religious and secular and non-profit organizational retreats are all samples of activities held at The Pearlstone. It has large outdoor pavilions and spacious grounds for corporate picnics and BBQ’s. Pearlstone has weddings and other life cycle events besides offering Jewish holiday programs for many Yom Tovim. For the last 15 years Pearlstone has run a very successful always completely sold out Passover program for the entire Pesach holiday. Pearlstone which always keeps two Torahs in house, and is well equipped with all davening needs for all visiting groups, has a very special heimishe atmosphere which creates a lovely Shabbos experience. There is a very unique special Pearlstone spiritual ambience, a very special atmosphere and a Shabbos weekend at Pearlstone has an extra aura and spiritual feeling to celebrate the day of rest in a peaceful angelic outdoor peaceful environment.

Over 7,000 children from visiting families and from Hebrew or Jewish day schools and secular schools visit the biblical farm each year. They learn the Torah laws pertaining to agriculture of the land of Israel and experience the farm to table concept of farming.

My Passion for Pearlstone

My 22 years serving on this board from its inception has instilled in me a passion for Pearlstone and I consider this unique magical place, which is an affiliated agency of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, providing a serene and fabulous get-away for our community and for many non- profits from all over America. The Associated Jewish Charities owns all the land at Pearlstone and contributes many valuable services and support to The Pearlstone. It is truly a Kiddush Hashem, for all who experience its operations.

At a recent Board retreat the board members were given a hay ride tour of the farm, the strawberry patches, the blueberry patches and the beautiful spectacular grounds overlooking corn fields, forests and rolling green pastures. Pearlstone is a green facility, totally environmentally friendly taking into account all environmental issues. Solar, energy, water conservation, are all important issues of the Pearlstone mission. The dining room has measured Bal Tashchis and food waste and posts results for guests to see all to minimize food waste. Every meeting by Board Members begins with a D’var Torah given by the men and women who serve on the board. This always sets the tone for our mission to be a special place with imbuing Jewish spirituality and ideals in running the Retreat and Farm operations.

The Organic Biblical Farm

The most amazing part of Pearlstone is the fantastic Torah inspired biblical farm. Here the farm grows buckwheat, tomatoes, asparagus, lettuce, corn and many vegetables and fruits that are all part of the farm to table offerings used by our kitchen staff preparing healthy delicious food. It’s a farm of Chinuch teaching Jewish Halachic principles like Shmitah, Yovel, Orlah, Ma’aser Leckach, Peah, Shikcha, Kelliem and other agricultural Halachos which except for Orlah and Kelliem are mostly related only to Eretz Yisrael land. Even so they are taught and partially observed at Pearlstone to teach us in the Diaspora all these important Halachos. Our farm staff often studies Mishnayos and Halacha to familiarize them with these principles and Halachos pertaining to agriculture. Crops grown at Pearlstone are also regularly given to poor and needy as Tzedaka which is another Torah concept taught to guests and visitors of Pearlstone. We celebrate Shmitah even though we are not in Israel, During the Shmita year the land lays partially not completely fallow, and is given somewhat of a rest.

Our Outstanding leadership

Pearlstone is directed by Jakir Manela who was originally brought to Pearlstone to manage the farm. Today Jakir has emerged as the Executive Director of Pearlstone and under his dynamic leadership and vision, together with his incredible staff, are all taking Pearlstone to the highest levels of hospitality and Jewish ideals that Pearlstone offers its many thousands of guests each year.

In 2021 Pearlstone has merged with Hazon and Jakir will now head Pearlstone/Hazon’s Issabella Freedmman, the new entity. Eve Wachaus will now head Pearlstone. We are undergoing a 5 million dollar building addition adding an additional 25 guest rooms and exciting thigs will be happening.

The Pearlstone Retreat Center was founded with the vision and funding of the generosity of Richie Pearlstone and the Pearlstone family with continuing ongoing generous support and PJ. Pearlstone is actively involved in its current leadership working with our immediate past Board Chair Rachel Steinberg Warschawski and current Board Chair Aaron Max.

Also Josh Fidler, the founding Board Chair, continues to this day to help current leadership through the new master plan and capital campaign, guiding the future growth of the Retreat Center and Farm. Pearlstone is in the beginning of a major campus expansion with new spacious facilities being planned and new buildings soon to be erected. Pearlstone has an aggressive master plan to take it to new levels never imagined that would be possible. The future opportunities for the retreat center and farm will make Pearlstone as its name implies a truly precious jewel in the crown of the Baltimore/Washington Jewish communities. WWW.PearlstoneCenter.org