



THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham
Now Celebrating its 127th Year
Affiliated with the United Synagogue
Of Conservative Judaism

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MERIDEN, CT 06450

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October, 2016

Elul - Tishri 5776

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Colleges and Antisemitism

As our students head, or head back, to College, I am seeing almost weekly reminders of the growing tide of antisemitism on campuses all across America. The most recent FBI hate crime report found that 58.2 percent of hate crimes motivated by religious bias were targeted at Jews. Jews make up 2.2 percent of the American population, so the FBI's statistics make it clear that Jews are the most disproportionately attacked religious group in America.

When a female Iranian Jewish student at UCLA attended a Students of Color Conference, she heard statements justifying “the murder of my people, the ruthless murder of innocent Israeli civilians, [and] blatantly denying Jewish indigeneity in the land, and denying the Holocaust in which six million Jews were murdered.” Another Jewish female student at UCLA was temporarily denied a student government leadership position . . . based solely on her Jewish identity.

A member of Students for Justice in Palestine (“SJP”) at Temple University physically assaulted a pro-Israel Jewish student two years ago, calling him a “Zionist baby killer.” And a Jewish elected representative on his college council [was instructed] to abstain from a vote on divestment from Israel because he was elected with a “Jewish agenda.”

A Jewish student at McGill University in Montreal stated, “I’ve been called a ‘Zionist b—’.” At Northeastern University, SJP defaced the statue of a Jewish donor and disrupted Holocaust awareness events and at Vassar, SJP tweeted Nazi propaganda from 1944. Another Jewish student was told that “being Jewish didn’t constitute the grounds for systematic oppression.”

Resources and assistance are available for Jewish students affected by this growing and disturbing trend. If one of your children or grandchildren, or another student you know is dealing with this issue, don’t keep silent. Let us know and we will provide you with directions.

I will have more to say about this issue on the High Holidays.

The Fall Festivals

The last two weeks of October this year brings with it the fall festivals. *Sukkot*, the fall harvest festival, is called *z'man simhateinu* — “the season of our joy”. And for good reason. On cool autumn evenings, we get to eat outside in the sukkah and we get to wave the *lulav* and *etrog* (one of our members makes a wonderful etrog marmalade after the holiday). On *Sh'mini Atzeret* — the Eighth Day of Assembly — in addition to the traditional *Yizkor* service, we chant *Geshem*, the special prayer for rain, which thereafter we include in our *Amida* at every service until *Pesah*.

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CALENDAR EVENTS

1 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

2 Sunday
No Jewry Duty
6:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner
7:30 pm Holiday Services

3 Monday
8:30 am Rosh Hashanah Services - Day 1

4 Tuesday
8:30 am Rosh Hashanah Services - Day 2

6 Thursday
8:00 am Morning Minyan

7 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

8 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

9 Sunday
9:30 am Jewry Duty
Noon - Tashlich at Hubbard Park

11 Tuesday
6:00 pm Kol Nidre Services

12 Wednesday
8:30 am Yom Kippur Services
4:30 pm - Mincha
5:30 pm - Neilah
6:55 pm - Shofar Sounds

13 Thursday
8:00 am Morning Minyan

14 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

15 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services



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16 Sunday
No Jewry Duty
10:15 am Build Temple Sukkah

17 Monday
9:30 am Sukkot Services - Day 1

18 Tuesday
9:30 am Sukkot Services - Day 2

20 Thursday
7:45 am Morning Minyan
7:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

21 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

22 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

23 Sunday
No Jewry Duty

24 Monday
9:30 am Shemini Atzeret Services with Yizkor
7:00 pm Simhat Torah Services

25 Tuesday
9:30 am Simhat Torah Services

27 Thursday
8:00 am Morning Minyan
7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

28 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

29 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

30 Sunday
9:30 am Jewry Duty
10:15 am Take down Temple Sukkah

From the President's Corner:

Every once in a while, in these days in which all the news seems bad and the entire world seems insane, something shows up that makes us stop and say, “Wow! That’s wonderful!” There was just such a story that came across the news wires this week, and in this season of renewal and the birthday of the world, I thought I would share it.

Yisrael Kristal is 113 years old, and lives in Haifa. He is recognized as the oldest man in the world, and he is about to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. He was supposed to become Bar Mitzvah 100 years ago, but World War I prevented that. Somehow it just never happened. Later, Mr. Kristal was forced into the infamous Lodz ghetto, and then was transported to Auschwitz. His wife and children were murdered there, but he survived. He has lived in Israel since 1950, and now has great-great grandchildren.

His story of survival and rebirth is the ultimate story of triumph over the Nazi evil. If you would like to see this story, the link is <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37375629>.

Unfortunately, now I must bring up a depressing issue. Over the past few months, attendance at services has become spotty at best. We have had more services without minyanim than ever before. There were three Saturdays in August in which we could not get ten people, and there were people who were there who could not say Kaddish as a result. PLEASE, make the attempt to attend a service on a Shabbat, a Thursday morning, or a Sunday morning. If you come even once a month, you will help ensure that people who have Yahrzeit will be able to say Kaddish for their loved ones. This is truly a great Mitzvah. If we cannot do this, what are we for? Please do your part to keep Temple B’nai Abraham going.

L’ShanahTovah — Bob

From the Rabbi Continued:

As if that weren’t enough, we also celebrate *Simhat Torah* — “the rejoicing of the *Torah*”, when we finish reading the *Torah* and begin immediately at the story of creation. We dance and sing with all of our *Torahs* during the seven processions, both in the evening and again the next morning. During the evening service, there is a special *aliyah* for the children. At the morning service, every member of the congregation receives an *aliyah* and there are two special *aliyot* where we honor two of members as we read the very last words and the very first words of our sacred *Torah*. It is one of the very few times that we read from three different *Torahs* at the same service.

When the Festivals fall on weekdays, it is often difficult to assemble a minyan for services. Please make every effort to join us for at least one service besides the *sh’mini atzeret yizkor* service to enable those saying *Kaddish* to honor their loved one. In addition, I will be sponsoring a luncheon on the second day of Sukkot to allow us to experience the joy of a communal meal in our Temple *sukkah*.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

With regret we inform you of the passing of:

Judi Barrett

Sister of Michelle Grossman

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.

May the Lord comfort and sustain
all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Auxiliary News

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, I hope all of you plan to start the year off right by joining Temple B'nai Abraham's Auxiliary. This wonderful committee provides many diverse programs throughout the year to meet the needs of the Temple members, both young and not so young. Our events include religious, educational, recreational, social and community service activities. We already have 11 programs planned for the coming year. We welcome new members and ideas.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of every other month, at 7:30 pm, in the Temple library. Our next meeting will be November 3rd. This committee is an integral part of the synagogue and provides funding for the onegs and other holiday celebrations. Please become a member of this committee...it will enable you to support your temple, while enjoying many fun events.

Make sure you plan on attending our up-coming programs in this New Year. We will start with our **Hayride on Sunday September 18th**, **building the sukkah on Sunday, October 16th**, our **Simchat Torah celebration on Monday, October 24th**, **taking down the sukkah on Sunday, October 30th**, and the **Military Whist Card Party on Saturday November 12th**. Look in the Scribe or call the Temple office for more information on these exciting events.

Looking forward to enjoying Auxiliary programs with you,

Susan Massicott
Auxiliary Chairperson

רפואה שלימה

Wishing a Complete & Speedy Recovery to:

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מזל טוב Mazal Tov

To Marilyn and Steven Mazanek on the birth of their grandson, **Eli James Watson**.
Eli was born August 7, 2016 and his parents are Deborah and Corey Watson.

Happy Anniversary to those couples celebrating an anniversary during the month of October:

10th - Bonnie & Michael Sperling
13th - Sarit & Ed DeFrancesco
15th - Phyllis & Herman Sochin (66th)
17th - Natalie & Joseph Langner
20th - Dr. Myra Skluth & Dr. Mark Burwick
23rd - Debbie & Edward DeSenti (40th)
24th - Shirley & Jay Brodach
29th - Michelle & Rick Grossman

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating a birthday during the month of October:

1st - Julie Levine
5th - Steven Mazanek
8th - Sarit DeFrancesco
8th - Bernie Frydenberg (91st)
23rd - Dorothy Elkin
24th - Renata Filler
26th - Henry Dobris (97th)
27th - Nancy Turover
27th - Fred Zierler

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

7th - Julia Kendzierski

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Military Whist Card Party **Saturday, November 12th, 2016** **7:30 PM**

Come and enjoy an evening of card playing, conversation, snacks and delicious desserts at Temple B'nai Abraham.

Bring your friends and family members to this Bi-Annual Event.

We will teach you this very easy and fun card game.

Win prizes (first and last place tables)

Come with a partner or a bring a full table or two
(4 players to a table)

**Please call the Temple Office (203-235-2581) by
Wednesday, November 4th to reserve a table.**

Also, please let us know if you can bring your own bridge table.

Admission: \$10 per person for Auxiliary Members

\$12 for Non-Members

Babysitting will be provided at \$10 per child

A 50/50 raffle will be held



***Time to restock your gift cards.
The holidays are just around the corner.
Think baby sitter, dog walker, paper person, etc.
These make a nice gift to give to show someone you
appreciate them (give to the military or police).***

Buy easy to give gifts (the size is always right)!



What Is Scrip?

Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue for Temple B'nai Abraham.

How scrip generates revenue for us

The Great Lakes Scrip Center acts on behalf of synagogues, schools and other non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from restaurants, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. Temple B'nai Abraham would buy the scrip from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount, and re-sell the certificates to families like yours for full face value. The discount - from two to fifteen percent or more - is Temple B'nai Abraham's revenue.

Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"

Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to sell anything. Temple members produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Clothing, toys and gifts can be purchased with scrip. You can use the cards themselves as gifts. Your friends can buy them.

Find Out More

See the list of available Scrip on the reverse side of this flyer. Then put your shopping dollars to work for Temple B'nai Abraham. If there is a merchant whose name you do not see on the flyer, please ask.

****** Note ******

All orders must be paid with a check made out to Temple B'nai Abraham and accompany the order form. **Please send them to the temple office before Friday, November 4th.** The gift cards will be available about late November and can be picked up at the temple office during regular office hours. You will be contacted by email or phone when the cards are in. Please call the office first to make sure someone will be there.

Contact the temple office at 203-235-2581 or Janice Weiss at 203-237-0200

Yahrzeits Observed in the Month of October

Oct. 1	Esther White Harry Semack Dorothy Rischall Bessie Hertzmark		Anna Sirotta Marton Schwartz Marvin Gordon Berte Kessler		Florence Skigen William Smith
Oct. 2	Paul Skigen	Oct. 13	Rose Kalmanowitz	Oct. 22	Michael B. Cohen Robert Dunn Simeon Spear
Oct. 4	Penina Avizov Bernice Zietz Anna Gallin Yenty Hertzmark	Oct. 14	Mae Reger Saul Zietz Reuben White	Oct. 23	William Kogen Max Grossman Justine Risen
Oct. 5	Charles Young Rebecca Gross Esther Groobert Harold Rischall	Oct. 15	Clara Schiesel Ruth Levine	Oct. 25	Minnie Young
Oct. 6	Ruth Krentzman	Oct. 16	Rabbi Albert Troy Beatrice Katz Ilka Krochmal Pearl Weinstein	Oct. 26	Sarah Grossman Joseph Denoff Louis Kaplan Leah Grossman
Oct. 7	Lewis Palley Jennie Wolk Elias Hertzmark	Oct. 17	Harry Silverman Jonah Umansky Reuben Lable Frances Palley Julia Loitz	Oct. 27	Anne Sheftel Sylvia Ruth Cherniack Herschel Hyman Seymour Berson
Oct. 8	Nathan Schiesel Maurice Harris			Oct. 28	Hyman Arinofsky Oscar Gross
Oct. 9	Doris Brown Mary Kosofsky	Oct. 18	Elizabeth Umansky Jean Krakower	Oct. 29	Ida Rischall Louis B. Horn
Oct. 10	Lillian Cohen Betty Goodman Evelyn Greenblatt Esther Hertzmark	Oct. 19	Lena Daniels Louis Caplan Henry Siegel	Oct. 30	Louis Friedman Fannie Kruh Harold Kaller Isaac Rovinsky
Oct. 11	Saul Alderman Jack Friedman Hermine Stern	Oct. 20	Hyman Fox Anna Libou Edward Koster Mary Epstein Steinman	Oct. 31	Ida Kaplan Ann Grossman June Bogatz
Oct. 12	Isaiah Sirotta	Oct. 21	Ida Glasser		



A Candle or Yahrzeit Light should be lit at sundown the night before these dates.

Tzdakah to perpetuate the memory of a loved one is a Mitzvah.

Your contribution to the Yahrzeit Fund would be greatly appreciated.

תודה רבה - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

Yahrzeit Fund: In Memory of:

Celia Woien by Aaron Woien

June H. Bogatz by Rabbi Dana Bogatz

Paul Krochmal by Joan Krochmal

Marty Trueheart by Hilda Trueheart

Sylvia Brodach by Jay & Shirley Brodach

Elizabeth Hardegen by Cathy & Michael Burwick

Sidney & Florence Kaye by Susan Kaye Quinn

Estelle Kosofsky by Susan Kaye Quinn

Mildred Goralnik by Susan Kaye Quinn

Sanford Shorr by Susan Kaye Quinn

Louis Caplan by Marcia Caplan

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Joyce Levine** by The Perrys.

In Memory of **Mary Ellen Keough** by Steven Perry.

Get Well Wishes to **Cantor Gladys Gruenwald** and wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, by Debra & David Kaye.

In Memory of **Judi Barrett** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

Cemetery Fund

In Memory of **Rena Berliner** by Phyllis & Bernie Frydenberg.

In Memory of **Ruth Kaufman** by Constance Rizoli.

In Memory of **Lena Grossman** by Edward Grossman.

In Memory of **Sam, Gussie & Ida Gerber** by Gail Leeser.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Honor of the Birth of **Eli, grandson of Marilyn Mazanek** by Susan Croog.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

In Memory of **Saul C. Zietz**, beloved father and grandfather, by Judy (Zietz) & Ed Siegel & family.

Get Well Wishes to **Cantor Gladys Gruenwald** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

Get Well Wishes to **Cantor Gladys Gruenwald** by Shana, Alyn & Travis Adams.

In Memory of **Judi Barrett** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

In Memory of **Judi Barrett** by Shana & Alyn Adams.

Sophie & Julius Barker Scholarship Fund

In Memory of **Julius and Sophie Barker** by Shelley & Michael Barker.