



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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December, 2016

Kislev - Tevet 5777

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Hanukkah

We will light the first candle for Hanukkah this year Motzei Shabbat, on Saturday evening, December 24. The Annual Hanukkah party will take place at the synagogue at 6:00 pm, on Thursday evening, December 29, when we will light the 6th Hanukkah candle. We will have a mass *Hanukkiot* lighting (remember to bring your own *Hanukkah* and we will supply the candles) with songs, activities, a light dinner with latkes, and ice cream.

On Friday night, light the candles, which must burn for 90 minutes BEFORE lighting the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, light the candles AFTER havdalah. In the synagogue, we reverse the order on Saturday night.

The 2016 Election

This year's presidential campaign and election has brought out the worst in people. Emotions are still running at a fever pitch, as I write this two weeks after Election Day. Many, particularly in the American Jewish community, are upset with the results — and with the President-Elect. Others are not. That is an acceptable response. However, the tenor of the comments on social media and elsewhere are unacceptable to rational Americans and, especially, to members of the Jewish community.

Much too often, we have seen labels applied to individuals, to groups, and to religions. We have seen a spike in anti-Semitism and in anti-Semitic acts. We have heard calls for the assassination of one or the other candidate. And we are seeing our country divided, if not being torn asunder, by the one element of our democratic society that is the envy of most of the world — free and fair elections.

President Abraham Lincoln, when he was a candidate for the United States Senate from Illinois, gave a speech in which he famously said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln went on to say that "I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided." Lincoln was wrong and it took four years of bloody civil war.

For too many years now, politics (and other endeavors) have become a zero sum game. When I was studying civics, I learned that politics was the art of compromise. That lesson seems to have been forgotten, as has the quote from Lincoln's other famous speech — The Gettysburg Address: that ours is a "government of the people, by the people, [and] for the people."

We learn in the Mishnah that "our world rests on three things: on justice, truth and peace" (1:18). It also teaches us to "Be wary of the authorities! They do not befriend anyone unless it serves their own needs. They appear as a friend when it is to their advantage, but do not stand by a person in his hour of need (2:4)".

I spoke on the High Holidays about the danger of applying labels to persons, or groups. As upset as many are, we must do two things: we must advocate peacefully for those ideals in which we believe; and we must seek to build a bridge with those with whom we disagree. For we are a single nation "under God, [and] indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



CALENDAR EVENTS DECEMBER 2016

1 Thursday

7:45 am Morning Minyan

2 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

3 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

4 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

8 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

9 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

12 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

11 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

9:30 - 11:00 am Gift Shop Open

15 Thursday

7:45 am Morning Minyan

16 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

17 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

18 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

9:30 - 11:00 am Gift Shop Open

22 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

23 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

24 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

5:10 pm Light First Chanukah Candle

25 Sunday

No Jewry Duty

29 Thursday

5:30 pm Chanukah Celebration

30 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

31 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

Quality Garden & Equipment Sales

Sharon Kogut Vumbaco

President

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From the President's Corner:

This month's column is very strange to write. This is technically for the December issue of the Scribe, but most of you will see it right around Thanksgiving. The big holiday in December is, of course, Hanukah, but it is so late this year that it will occur after the January Scribe comes out.

The Temple Future Committee, which I previewed last month, has now met for the first time. The mission of this committee is to determine what we would like to be as a synagogue not just next year, or even in a few years, but twenty years from now. Do we have a future in Meriden? If so, where should that be — in our existing building or in a smaller one somewhere else in town? If we conclude that we do not have a future in Meriden, what should we do about that? Should we move to another town, should we work on joining with another congregation, or should we close altogether? And when we make one of these decisions, what resources will be necessary to make it happen? These are very difficult and emotionally weighted questions that are going to be very hard to answer. There are ten people on this committee, but your input as members of Temple B'nai Abraham is essential and welcome. Please let us hear from you.

One of the things that I and all the past-presidents that I can think of say a lot is "If you feed them, they will come." As much of a cliché as this is, it is demonstrably true. Attendance at a service at which lunch or dinner is served is always higher than when it is not. We already have sponsored Shabbat kiddush lunches once a month, and we would love to have them more often than that. Katrina and I are sponsoring a kiddush on December 10, at which the Rabbi will be leading an adult education program. You, or even a group, can sponsor a lunch in honor of someone or an event, or we might have a program that day as well. You can also sponsor a Friday night Oneg Shabbat. That would be wonderful! Please contact the Temple office. It is a very simple process.

So, I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving, and a very happy December. I'll save the Happy Hanukah for my next column.

Bob

מזל טוב – Mazal Tov

To **Julie and Howard Levine** on the marriage of their son **Daniel** to **Sarah Spielman** on November 6th.

To **Debbie and David Kaye** on the marriage of their daughter **Rachel** to **Allan Rosin** on November 6th.

Happy Anniversary to our couples celebrating an anniversary during the month of December:

7th - Sue & Ken Teller

17th - Laurie & Richard Katz

17th - Rebecca & Sandy Sheftel (50th)

20th - Lesley & Abe Chidekel (66th)

22nd - Adrienne & Jon Palley

30th - Raisa & Yakov Filler

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

2nd - Sheila Nemeth

5th - Esther Smith

7th - Joseph Langner

10th - David Nemeth

17th - Fran Dubrow

17th - Bob Axelrod

30th - Judie Landsberg

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

11th - Jonathan Goodman (18th)

With Sorrow we inform you of the passing of:

Lillian Levine

Mother of Howard Levine

Walter Wolonski

Father of Debbie Broadley

Etoile (Star) Shemkovitz

Wife of Edward Shemkovitz

Mother of Liz, Saul and Naomi

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.

May the Lord comfort and sustain

all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



Thursday December 29th

**Come and Light Your Menorah
Celebrate Hanukkah**

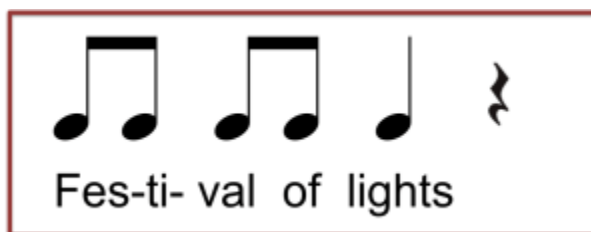
**Bring your Hanukkah Menorah and
we will supply the candles**

5:30 pm - We will light the menorah and recite the blessings.

6:00 pm - We will enjoy a light dairy dinner, with potato latkes, followed by make your own ice cream sundae.

We will all join together and sing some Hanukkah songs and perhaps even play dreidle.

Please RSVP to the Temple office (203-235-2581) and let us know how many of you are planning to attend.





Chanukah Gift Shoppe Sale

Chanukah is coming. First Night Dec. 24th.
Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your
holiday shopping done early at our Gift Shoppe.

The Gift Shoppe will be open:

**Sundays: December 11th and 18th
from 9:30 am – 11:00 am**

****Special arrangements**** can be made to view our holiday
merchandise by contacting the Temple office.

**We have many new items to offer,
so come visit us for your holiday purchases!!!!**

E. JACK SHORR
Attorney & Counselor at Law

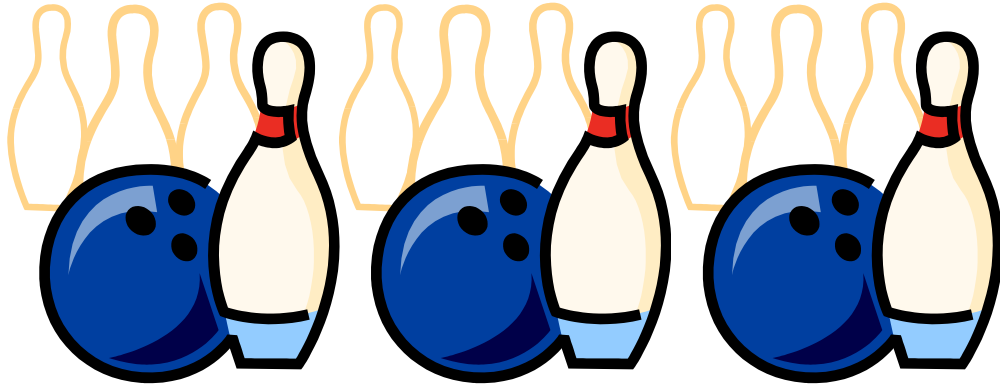
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**Temple Auxiliary Goes Duck-Pin Bowling
Saturday Evening, January 7th, 2017
(snow date January 14th)**

Join as we go to Highland Bowl, 1211 Highland Ave (Rte. 10)
in Cheshire, for “**Disco Ducks Glow Bowling.**”
Complete with glow lights and special effects.

The duck pin bowling (small pins) will be from 7 – 9 pm.
The fun does not stop there. Come on back to Sue and Roy
Massicott’s home for coffee and!! 39 Spice Hill Drive,
South Meriden (on Diamond Hill) 203-630-1947.

The cost of the evening is **\$12.00 per person for Auxiliary Members
and \$14.00 for Non-Members.** This gives you an unlimited number
of games in the 2 hours and dessert. **Or \$3.00 Dessert Only**

Please call the Temple office by Monday, January 4th and let us know how
many will be coming. The more who come the better. Don’t miss out on a
great evening!! Small pins, small ball, hopefully no strain on your back!!

**You are welcome to bring non-Temple members.
Be sure to call and make your reservation!!!**

Yahrzeits Observed in the Month of December

Dec. 1	Abe Bishins Anna R. Limon		Evelyn Rozen Sadie Berman		Mary Sigmond Murray Schutz
Dec. 2	Jerome Weisser		Rose Gottlieb	Dec. 23	Murray Schutz
Dec. 3	Eliezer Rubenstein Bruin Lipman Edith Bishinsky Samuel Elkin Edith Baron	Dec. 13	Anne Emple Kaplan Gary Limon Charles Hatten	Dec. 24	Rose Rozen Meyer Hasburg Rhea Kaye Hirshorn
Dec. 4	Julius Grossman	Dec. 14	Meyer Cheikin Frieda Goldstein	Dec. 25	Benjamin Limon Philip Shefkowitz Sallye Katrosar
Dec. 5	Morris Port Bernard White Myron Arlook Shirley Sodel Bernard Lew Louis Rozen	Dec. 15	Doris Katz Anna Hagenauer William Mark Anna Arlook Cecelia White	Dec. 26	Herbert Sperling Becky Zimmerman Ceil Bolton Florence Kaye
Dec. 6	Avis Levin Benjamin Simonowsky Maurice Weinberg Mildred Schiller	Dec. 16	Ethel Tonkonow Dorothy Kreisler Doris Parmett Charles Perlmutter	Dec. 27	Murray Levine Lillian Shulkin Morris Silver Herman Sheftel
Dec. 7	Milton Bolton	Dec. 17	Jack Finkel Barnet Taitz	Dec. 28	Carl Limon Morris Goldstein Mordecai Dickter Marcia Cheikin
Dec. 8	Irving Sorman Marion Beloff Bella Katz Jay Grossman	Dec. 18	Norman Ash Alexander Reger	Dec. 29	Meyer White Jacob Gerber Morris Wilder Esther Goldberg Sophie Barker
Dec. 9	Rebecca Dobris Harry Weinberg	Dec. 19	Rachel Shoag Nathan Cherniack	Dec. 30	Sophia Jacobson Charles Hasburg David Caplan Sidney Kaye
Dec. 10	Abraham Katz Mike Eisner Aaron Bush	Dec. 20	Yetta Gerstenblatt Louis Steinfeld Ted Pollans Arthur Kruh Dr. Morris Sugarman Alan Katten		
Dec. 11	Mary Grossman Sydelle Koslow Anna Scheer	Dec. 21	Pearl Burwick Morris Simonowsky Abraham Winkleman		Eva Jacobson Miller Freda Cohen Yetta Waxman
Dec. 12	Raul Shoag Frederick Harris Samuel Levine Rhoda Chain Ada Blume	Dec. 22	Fannie Silverman Anna G. White Isaac Hyman Harry Goodman Ruth Klamkin	Dec. 31	Isaac Shapiro Grace Snyder Alter J Simonowsky Louis (Zelig) Kessler



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:

Max Shulkin by Norman Shulkin

William Powlotsky by Richard A. Katz

Harry & Betty Bichunsky by Herb & Rita Bichunsky

General Temple Fund

The following donations were made In Memory of

Lil Levine by:

Natalie & Lenny Cheerman

The Massicott Family

Michelle & Rick Grossman

Debbie & David Kaye

The following donations were made In Memory of **Al**

Lowell by:

Natalie & Lenny Cheerman

The Massicott Family

Cathy & Fred Morro

Debbie & David Kaye

The following donations were made In Memory of

Star Shemkovitz by:

Natalie & Lenny Cheerman

Susan & Samuel Cohn

Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt

Esia Friedman

Arlene Beck, Audrey Johnson, Pat &

Stuart Soobitsky, and Rimma

& Ari Soobitsky

Sally & Ira Henowitz

Mazal Tov to **Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk** on the birth of their granddaughter **Rosalind Juniper Borsuk** by Natalie and Lenny Cheerman

In Memory of **Atty. Joseph F. Weigand, Jr.** by The Perrys

Mazal Tov to **Estelle Schupack** on the birth of her great grandchild **Ari Benjamin Schupack**, and to parents Drs. Daniel & Katie Schupack and to Dr. & Mrs. Alan Schupack

In Memory of **Eugene Friedman** by Ines & Bea Gerstenblatt

In Memory of **Judi Barrett** by The Massicott Family

In Memory of **Norma Fenzel** by The Massicott Family

In Honor of the birth of **Rosalind Juniper Borsuk** to the **Borsuk Family** by The Perrys

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Risa & Fred Zierler

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Shana & Alyn Adams

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Sarit & Ed DeFrancesco

In Memory of **Walter Wolonski** by Risa & Fred Zierler

In Memory of **Walter Wolonski** by Shana & Alyn Adams

In Memory of **Norma Fenzel** by Sarit & Ed DeFrancesco

In Memory of **Al Lowell** by Sarit & Ed DeFrancesco Mazal Tov to **Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk** on the birth of their granddaughter **Rosalind Juniper Borsuk** by Sarit & Ed DeFrancesco

In Memory of **Star Shemkovitz** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by The Steiner Family

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Ruth Kahn

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Susan Croog

Mazal Tov to **Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk** on the birth of their granddaughter **Rosalind Juniper Borsuk** by Flora Shorr

Mazal Tov to **Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk** on the birth of their granddaughter **Rosalind Juniper Borsuk** by Jack Shorr

In Memory of **Al Lowell** by Flora Shorr

In Memory of **Al Lowell** by Jack Shorr

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk

In Memory of **Walter Wolonski** by Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk

In Memory of **Lil Levine** by Marilyn Petroff

In Memory of **Etoile Shemkovitz** by Flora Shorr

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