



THE SCRIBE

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

127 EAST MAIN STREET
MERIDEN, CT 06450

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March, 2017

Adar - Nisan 5777

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

The Rise in Anti-Semitic Activity

Over the past month, there have been a rash of bomb threats called in to Jewish Community Centers around the United States, including the Greater Hartford JCC and the JCC of Greater New Haven (twice). There has been desecration at a Jewish Cemetery in St. Louis and there have been innumerable other anti-Semitic incidents, including one at a synagogue in Chicago and on a New York subway car. As if those weren't enough, we have also seen Jewish college students subjected to the most vile epithets that they should be gassed or "burn in the oven".

As I am writing this column, President Trump has finally spoken out: "We have to fight bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms. The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community centers are horrible and are painful, and a very sad reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil." Earlier, he told NBC News that "Anti-Semitism is horrible and it's going to stop."

While I am happy the President has finally spoken out, it is not enough. We need actions, more than words. And we need an energized Jewish populace. We need the type of energy demonstrated by the Women's March on Washington the day after the inauguration and demonstrated by those opposing the now-enjoined Executive Order on immigration. As I remarked on the High Holidays, politicians will listen to the people, but we have to make ourselves heard.

Anti-Semitism (and its corollary, Anti-Israel) is a danger to Jews all over the world, including those here at home. What will each of us do to ensure it doesn't happen to us, to our children, or to our grandchildren.?

Arba Parshiot — The Four Portions

It is right around the month of Adar that we have the first of four special Maftir portions from the Torah, each of which is accompanied by a special Haftarah. The four are Shekalim, which occurs on the Shabbat just before, or on, Rosh Hodesh Adar (Adar Bet in leap years), and which refers to the half-shekel tax used to support communal sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple; Zakhor, which occurs on the Shabbat before Purim, and which commands us first, to remember, and then, to blot out the name of Amalek; Parah, which occurs on the Shabbat that is between Purim and Shabbat HaHodesh, and which is a reminder to purify ourselves before Passover; and, finally, HaHodesh, which occurs on the Shabbat that is just before, or on, Rosh Hodesh Nisan, and which reminds us of the details of Passover observance.

Purim

This joyous holiday will be observed on Saturday evening, March 11, at 7:00 p.m., with the reading of *Megillat Esther* ("the Megillah") and other festivities. Please plan on joining us for this wonderful evening of Jewish merriment. But a word of caution. Although the Talmud states that one is to drink on Purim until he (or she) cannot tell the difference between "cursed is Haman" and "blessed is Mordechai", recent authorities, even in the Orthodox community, recognize the danger this poses. The most recent authoritative code — the Mishnah Berurah (late 19th - early 20th century) — holds that one who drinks should drink only a bit more than one is used to. And that is only for one who would not be driving afterwards. Please, enjoy the holiday, but don't endanger yourself or others.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



CALENDAR EVENTS

2 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Auxiliary Committee Meeting

3 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

4 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

5 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

9 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting

10 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

11 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

**7:00 pm Purim Celebration and
Megillah Reading**

12 Sunday

No Jewry Duty

16 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

MARCH 2017

17 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

18 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

**Military Whist - 7:45 pm - doors open,
8:15 pm - fun begins**

19 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

23 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

24 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

25 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

26 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

30 Thursday

8:00 am Morning Minyan

31 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

From the President's Corner:

I normally use this column to update the membership on what is happening in the synagogue at this time, and to mention future events. This month, however, I am going to go beyond our little corner of the world.

The first month of the new administration has been notable for its chaotic effect on Washington, on the country, and on the world, and I think we can all benefit from a little help from HaShem. There is a prayer that is located in the Torah service on Shabbat mornings that we usually skip over. It is mixed in with the prayer for the congregation, the prayer for Israel, and the prayer for peace. I guess that, until now, most Rabbis did not consider it necessary to say.

The prayer is entitled:

A Prayer for Our Country

(and a few lines are worth quoting right now):

Teach [our leaders and advisors] insights from Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that ... justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land ... be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom -- helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore."

Suddenly, this prayer is now more relevant than ever before, and I suggest that it's recitation be made part of our normal Shabbat morning. As it is said, "Couldn't hurt"!

Speaking of justice and freedom, I wish everyone a happy Purim.

Bob

Mazal Tov - מזל טוב

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

4th - Anita & Martin Hillman

17th - Linda & Allen Caplan

25th - Phyllis & Bernie Frydenberg

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

2nd - Herman Sochin

4th - Herb Bichunsky

7th - Sue Massicott

7th - Rabbi Michael Kohn

10th - Ben Eisner

20th - David Goodman

21st - Raisa Filler

22nd - Jan Weiss

22nd - Estelle Limon

22nd - Shari Turner

24th - Katrina Axelrod

27th - Susan Croog

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

5th - Matt Arnold

רפואה שלימה

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to:

Helene Koenig

Purim Celebration

Temple B'nai Abraham and Beth Israel Synagogue

Saturday, March 11th

7:00 PM

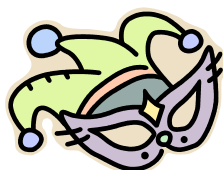
at Temple B'nai Abraham

Megillah Reading and Purim Celebration

**Come in Costume --- there will be a contest
for both adults and children**

Bring a grogger or use ours

Enjoy Hamentaschen





Military Whist Card Party
Saturday, March 18, 2017 - new date
7:45 PM - doors open
8:15 PM - start playing

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, March 15th to reserve a table.

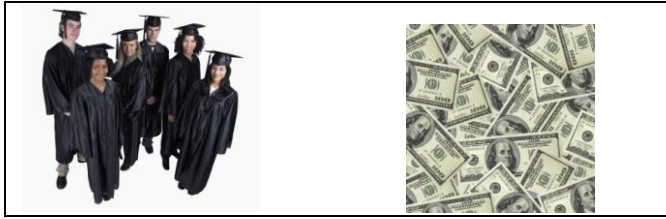
Also, please let us know if you can bring your own bridge table.

Admission: \$10 per person for Auxiliary Members

\$12 for Non-Members

A 50/50 raffle will be held





College Scholarship Information

Applications for Temple Scholarships for **undergraduate and graduate** study, are available in the Temple office and must be picked up. **None will be mailed out.** All applications need to be returned to: Temple B'nai Abraham – College Scholarships, 127 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450 by **May 16, 2017**. The following scholarships are available:

Sarah Zietz Pierson
Sylvia Gross Wasserman
Sophie & Julius Barker
Rabbi Albert & Roselyn Troy
Evelyn & Abraham Grossman
Bernie Seiden
Marcia & Max Cheikin
Jean Stern Aron
Millie Levine Dobris

Pick up your applications as soon as possible so they may be **properly completed** and **sent in on time**. Parents, please be sure to read the cover of the application carefully in order to **fulfill all of the requirements**. Members must be in good standing to apply.

The Gladys and Arthur Weiss Temple Youth Scholarship for Camp and Travel to Israel

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide an incentive for Jewish youth to remain connected to Jewish life by affording them the opportunity to participate in cultural, social, religious, educational, or personal development experiences centered around a Jewish environment.

The following areas of interest for eligible program:

1. Jewish learning, e.g. Makom
2. Jewish Summer Camps, e. g. USY Summer, USY on Wheels, Laurelwood
3. Jewish Sports Camp, Maccabiah
4. Jewish Camps (programs) for the fine arts, March of the Living

A letter from the child should be sent to the Temple by **May 16th**, telling what they hope to gain from this experience.

The Jewish Federation of the Greater Meriden Area IMPORTANT SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

Thanks to your generous contributions, the Jewish Federation of the Greater Meriden Area will be able to award two types of scholarships this year:

1. Scholarships to children who will be participating in a summer camp or other program that enhances Jewish identity (i.e. Jewish Summer Camp; an organized trip to Israel etc.) and whose parents have been supporters of the Jewish Federation of Greater Meriden in each of the last three years. **To apply**, please stop in the Temple office for an application.

2. Scholarships to college and university students (**undergraduate**) who have been supporters or whose parents have been supporters of the Jewish Federation of Greater Meriden in each of the last three years.

To apply, please stop in and pick up an application and provide some of the following information: your goals, which school you are attending and a brief description of your course of study.

Applications for either type of scholarship must be submitted no later than 5/16/2017 to:

Jewish Federation of Greater Meriden
 127 East Main Street
 Meriden, CT 06450

**Back by popular demand.
Time to restock your gift cards.
Time for order for Mother's Day, Father's Day,
Graduation, and Wedding Shower gifts, etc.**

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, April 7th.** The gift cards will be available about the middle of April 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 March

Mar. 1	Mildred Edelson Jack Bernstein Ida Feinberg Arthur Landsberg		Belle Semack Barbara Brown Jacob Weiss Sidney Kahn		Rachel Rosenthal Shirley Stuart Rose Israel
Mar. 2	Anne Weinberg Alex Shoag Jacob Gottlieb	Mar. 11	Rebecca Lurie Max White Israel Feinberg	Mar. 20	Anna Weinberg Beatrice Kolbin Anna Cherniack Abraham Cheerman
Mar. 3	Isaac Grossman Bess Perry Joseph Muravnick Frances Steinfeld Edith Zaiantz Charles Emple	Mar. 12	Ann Shapiro Martin Lable Joseph Nichols Charles Pierson Dorothy E. Miller Harry Gordon	Mar. 21	Merwin Zuckerman Selma Young Marshall Cooper Dorothy Miller Sima Kalmanowitz Tessie Cherniack
Mar. 4	Cindy Lee Frank Geraldine Kahn Arnold Cohen Jacob Hirsch Geraldine Turover Chester Trueheart Allan Kaye	Mar. 13	Elliot DuBrow Sidney Friedman Esther Levine		Gertrude Wilder Doris Kaye Abraham Goldberg
		Mar. 14	Eva Bittman Nathan Pell Ruth Jacobs Abraham Goldstein	Mar. 22	Bessie Epstein Yehudi Lenzner Charles Cohen Herman Angel
Mar. 5	Benjamin Pollack Nelda Greengas Jack Small Norman Landsberg Joseph Rachels		Faye Lovett Ralph Kohn	Mar. 23	Fred Rubenstein Abraham Rosen
		Mar. 15	Sarah Abrams Eva Ziskis Gladys Rosenberg Harry Goldstein Rose Zellman Louis Zwillingier	Mar. 24	Isidore Cohen Lena Moslowitz Minnie Levitt Mollie Silver Michael Melton
Mar. 6	Yetta Friedman Lillian Harris Dale Bauer Lenore Winkleman	Mar. 17	Fannie Fightlin Dr. Irving Katz Joseph Silverstein Sarah Friedman Philip Rosenthal Jules Grossman Ralph Burwick Louis Lurie Miriam Cooperman Nathan Weinstein	Mar. 25	Louis Tonkonow Ruth Sugarman Rebecca Friedlander
Mar. 7	Nehuma Simonowsky John Blume Abraham Grossman			Mar. 26	Abraham Berson Ida Dina Arlook
Mar. 8	Gussie Shapiro Edward Apfelbaum Irene Hopenhajm Jon Harris Benjamin Daniels			Mar. 27	Sally Alderman Rose Cherniack
				Mar. 28	Ida Cheerman Shirley Zierler Anna Katz Mary Statlender
Mar. 9	Anna Buchman Lillian Sierra Norman Bogatz Edward Perry Michael Levin Barry Koslow	Mar. 18	Minnie White Fannie Levitch Adele Messinger Paul Baron	Mar. 29	Max Steiner Noah Kaplan Samuel Mag Harry Gerstenblatt Margaret Cohen
Mar. 10	Samuel Greenblatt	Mar. 19	Molly Helper		Irwin Denenberg

Mar.29 Rhoda Hurwitz
Rita Stobezki
Mar. 30 John Jack Levin
Jack Reich
Mar. 30 David Fine

Max Levine
Bernice Silverman
Moses Bichunsky
Mar. 30 Israel Koslow
Lester Sugarman



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.

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<http://www.jferryfh.com/>

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Lisa Highbridge
Manager

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sales@meridenselfstorage.com
www.meridenselfstorage.com

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Sharon Kogut Vumbaco

President

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qualitygarden@sbcglobal.net

753 North Colony Road

Meriden, CT 06450-2323

qualitygarden.ct.com

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

Yahrzeit Fund: In Memory of:

Beloved family members by Marge Kirchheimer

Chester Trueheart by Hilda Trueheart

Isaac Shapiro by Ernest & Barbara Shapiro

George Shapiro by Ernest & Barbara Shapiro

Lori Shapiro by Ernest & Barbara Shapiro

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Fran Dubrow** by Jan & Jay Weiss.

In Memory of **Fran Dubrow** by Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt.

In Memory of **Mike Bersch** by Dorothy & David Elkin.

In Memory of **Aunt Fran Dubrow** by Naomi & Michael Cohen.

In Memory of **William Katz** by Dorothy & David Elkin.

A generous donation from the William & Shirley Yollies Support Foundation.

In Memory of **William Katz** by Marjorie Perry & Family.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

In Memory of **Fran Dubrow** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

Mazal Tov to **Stacey and Bruce Rovinsky** on the birth of granddaughter **Ilana Sadie Rogers** by the DeFrancesco Family.