



# THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham  
Now Celebrating its 128<sup>th</sup> Year  
Affiliated with the United Synagogue  
Of Conservative Judaism

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September 2017

Elul - Tishrei, 5777-78

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

## Israel

As many, if not most, of you know, I spent most the month of July in Israel. In some ways, it was a time of strife. The Prime Minister, walked back his support for an expanded egalitarian prayer section at the Kotel — the Western Wall. The Keneset was set to pass a controversial conversion bill, which would have little effect on conversions in the diaspora, including here in the United States, but still raised the level of angst in this country. And many rabbis, both Orthodox and liberal, found themselves on a so-called “blacklist”, rabbis whose assertions of Jewish parentage would not be accepted by the Chief Rabbinate. And as I was about to spend my last Shabbat in Israel, riots broke out on the Temple Mount, stemming from the murder of two Druze Border Guards and the subsequent decision, later rescinded, to install metal detectors.

Yet, my time in Israel was safe, tranquil, and very enjoyable — even when I visited the Old City of Jerusalem the day after the metal detectors were installed. There were crowds on the beaches of Tel Aviv; over 1000 attended the *Kabbalat* Shabbat service at the Tel Aviv port; and there were large crowds at a festival being held in Old Yafo, when we visited there on Saturday night after Shabbat. There was peace in Haifa, a city with a large Israeli-Arab population, when we visited with a colleague from New Jersey who grew up there and whose mother and son still live there. There was calm in the city of Zichron Yaakov, home of the Carmel winery and it was peaceful as we experienced the natural beauty in the Carmel Forest and an artists' colony nearby.

Surprisingly, the waiters and waitresses at Tel Aviv's restaurants have learned gracious service, even to those whose Hebrew skills are not up to their standards, or even non-existent and the food is amazing. It is so fresh, that you can taste the difference. Yes, the traffic now rivals that in New York City and there are few places to park. The drivers seem to be better, although there are many more cars on the road — the birth of the Israeli two (or more) car families.

I have heard from several of you that you would like to visit Israel this coming year. After the holidays, I will gauge interest for a congregational trip. Please let me know if you have any interest. And I will address some of the issues I highlighted in the first paragraph in my High Holiday sermons, but do not let those discourage you from seeing this amazing country.

## Elul

We began the Month of Elul, the last month before Rosh HaShannah, on August 23. Sometime after the destruction of the Second Temple, Elul was designated as the time to prepare for the High Holy Days. Jewish tradition symbolically refers to the name of the month, as Elul is an acronym for the words in a verse from the Song of Songs: *Ani l'dodi v'dodi li* — “I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine,” describing the relationship between God and Israel. In Aramaic, the word “*Elul*” means “search”. It is

Continued on the following page

during Elul when we begin to search our hearts in earnest before the Yamim Norai'im — the “Days of Awe”, as the High Holidays also are known. As the Maharal of Prague said, “All the month of Elul, before eating and sleeping, a person should look into his soul and search his deeds, that he may make confession.” This soul seeking is called *heshbon ha'nefesh* in Hebrew. Every day during Elul, except the first (Rosh Hodesh), the last, and Shabbat, we blow the Shofar as a wake-up call to sleepers, designed to rouse us from our complacency and to remind us that the time for repentance during the past year is coming to an end. And when words fail us, think of the sound of the Shofar. It reminds us that significant meaning can be conveyed without the use of words.

### **S'lihot – Kever Avot – Tashlikh**

As the month of Elul draws to a close, the mood of repentance becomes more urgent. Prayers for forgiveness called s'lihot are recited in the early morning, before normal daily shaharit service. These prayers are recited for at least three days before Rosh Hashanah until Yom Kippur. A fundamental part of the selichot service is the repeated recitation of the "Thirteen Attributes," a list of God's thirteen attributes of mercy that were revealed to Moses after the sin of the golden calf. The first s'lihot service is usually held around midnight on Motza'ei Shabbat — right after Shabbat ends (after nightfall on Saturday night). This year it will be held on September 16, 2017, at 8:00 p.m. This year, our S'lihot observance, as last year, will begin with two short animations related to the themes of the season, each to be followed by discussion. Following a refreshment break, we will hold our S'lihot service.

The annual cemetery service, another custom of the month of Elul — visiting the graves of our ancestors, will be held the following morning, Sunday, September 17, at 11:30 a.m. Following our custom, the Tashlikh ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 24, at Hubbard Park.

### **5778**

As the year 5777 draws to a close, I am reminded of the challenges facing our world. Here at home, the increased hate and violence against people of color and other cultural and religious minorities, as well as those sworn to protect us. Both here at home and in Europe, we see the growing tide of antisemitic words and violence. In Israel, as in other places around the world, the risk of terror. And not the least, the constant battles among Jews, both here and in Israel, over Israel and who is a Jew. We cannot wait for someone else to fix these challenges. We each must do our part — with our money and our vocal support.

May this upcoming year, 5778, be one of health, happiness, love and peace for us, for our families, for our community, our country, for Israel, and for the world.

### **Shabbat Luncheons**

I hope that those of you who attended series of Shabbat morning luncheons the past year found them intellectually, as well as gastronomically, nourishing and would like them to continue next year. If you would like to sponsor a luncheon during 5778, please contact the office. We will hold the first luncheon in October and continue monthly through May, except in April. As with this past year, there will be a short learning session during each luncheon.

B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



## CALENDAR EVENTS

### AUGUST

**Thursday - Aug. 24 and 31**

**8:00 AM** Morning Minyan

**Saturday - Aug. 19 and 26**

**9:30 AM** Shabbat Morning Services

### SEPTEMBER

**1 Friday**

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**2 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**7 Thursday**

**8:00 am** Morning Minyan

**7:30 pm** Auxiliary Committee Meeting

**8 Friday**

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**9 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**14 Thursday**

**8:00 am** Morning Minyan

**7:30 pm** Board of Directors' Meeting

**15 Friday**

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**16 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**17 Sunday**

**11:30 am** Cemetery Memorial Service

**1:00 pm** Auxiliary Hayride and Apple Picking

**SEE SEPARATE PAGES FOR  
HOLIDAY SERVICES**

**28 Thursday**

**7:30 pm** Board of Directors' Meeting

## Cemetery Memorial Service

**Sunday, September 17th  
11:00 am**

**At the Corrigan Avenue  
Cemetery**

**Please notify all interested  
family members.**

From the President's Corner:

Greetings as I begin the second time I serve as President of Temple B'nai Abraham. As the High Holidays approach, I wish all of you a Shanah Tovah—a happy and healthy New Year. May you all have a wonderful 5778.

Ten years ago, I served as president with a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president to assist. Now I am president again, but this time there is no crucial support from a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president: no one stepped up to fill these important positions. This is a serious problem for our synagogue since after my term is over, there may be no formal leadership for the Temple. We may have to change the way we operate to get past this challenge, but it would be much better if we could have more participation our leadership. The Finance Committee, for example, is currently lacking a chair, and we truly need someone in this position.

The congregation is in need of your participation to serve on a committee, to help with the Auxiliary, and to attend services on Shabbat mornings, Friday evenings, Thursday mornings, and Sunday mornings. These services are often minyan-challenged, and even a few additional participants would make a world of difference, especially to those who come to say kaddish for a loved one.

As always, the High Holiday services require a great deal of work, but there are many fewer of us than there used to be. It is truly a mitzvah to help out in any way you choose. If you wish to volunteer, please call the Temple office or contact Bob Axelrod.

Jay Weiss  
President

With regret we inform you of the passing of:

**Beatrice Gerstenblatt**  
Sister of Ines Gerstenblatt

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.  
May the Lord comfort and sustain  
all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## Heads Up - Here Come the Holidays

### Schedule of Holiday Services

#### Mark your calendar

##### Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, Sept. 20	Dinner	6:30 PM
	Services	7:45 PM
Thursday, Sept. 21		8:30 AM
Friday, Sept. 22		8:30 AM
Sunday, Sept. 24		10:00 AM
	Tashlich at Hubbard Park	

##### Kol Nidre

Friday, Sept. 29		6:15 PM
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##### Yom Kippur

Saturday, Sept. 30		8:30 AM
	Minhah Services	5:45 PM
	Ne'ilah Services	6:45 PM
	Shofar Sounds	7:15 PM

##### Sukkot

Sunday, Oct. 1		9:30 AM
	Build Temple Sukkah	
Thursday, Oct. 5		9:30 AM
Friday, Oct. 6		9:30 AM
Thursday, October 12		9:30 AM
	Shemini Atzeret with Yizkor	
	Light dinner pre-Simhat Torah	6:30 PM
	Simhat Torah	7:00 PM
Friday, October 13		9:30 AM
	Simhat Torah	
Sunday, October 15		9:30 AM
	Take down Temple Sukkah	



## TASHLICH IN THE PARK

Tashlich is a remarkable ceremony which this year will be held on **Sunday, September 24**, at **10:00 AM** in Hubbard Park near the duck pond. All members, family and friends are invited to participate in this service. Hubbard Park is located on West Main Street.

Through the ritual of Tashlich, we express not only our desire to be free from future sin, but our continuing hope that we will be forgiven for past misdeeds. It is customary to go to a flowing body of water and recite prayers while “casting” our sins (represented by pieces of bread) into the water.

So please join us for this meaningful ceremony at the **Hubbard Park Duck Pond on Sept. 24**.

Don't forget to bring bread (any type of bread or crackers). Leftover challah from your Rosh Hashanah dinners is perfect.

### Additional Important High Holiday Notes:

1. Silent Meditation – the Cantor chants the beginning of the *Musaf Amidah* on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; we will pause for a few moments of silent reflection and prayer before the *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer.
2. Gratitude for Recovery – Anyone who has undergone surgery, had a serious illness or an accident is invited to participate in the reciting of the *Gomel* blessing on 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Rosh Hashanah. Please contact the Temple office and we will send you a copy beforehand.
3. Ne'ilah Meditation – During the Ne'ilah service on Sept. 30th, we will once again offer individuals or families time to meditate and pray before the open ark.



## Time to order your Lulav and Etrog for Sukkot

**All orders (with payment) must  
be in to the Temple office by  
Wednesday, Sept.13th.  
The cost is only \$35 per set.**

Bring your lulav and etrog to the Sukkot services Thursday, Oct. 5th and Friday, Oct. 6th and then use it at home the rest of the week.

Can you spare an hour on **Sunday, Oct. 1st**, to help construct the Temple Sukkah? We will begin construction at 9:30. The help of 4 or 5 people will make the job go much faster. We will also need several helpers on **Sunday, Oct. 15th** (9:30 AM) to take down and put away the Sukkah. Please call the Temple office and let Linda know that you are willing to help.





# Plan Early!

## Traditional Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

By popular demand, we are holding another "family" dinner.

**Wednesday, September 20th — 6:30 PM  
immediately following (7:45 PM) will be  
the Erev Rosh Hashanah services**

**All reservations must be in to the Temple office by Friday,  
September 8th. No late reservations will be accepted.**

\_\_\_\_\_ adults at \$ 20.00 (max. payment \$50)

\_\_\_\_\_ children at \$10 (ages 5–12)

\_\_\_\_\_ children 4 and under (free)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Temple Auxiliary and the Meriden Federation  
will be supplementing the cost of the meal,  
and we thank them for their generosity.**

**מזל טוב – Mazal Tov**

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

- 1st - Marty & Jon Ernstoff
- 1st - Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk
- 2nd - Nancy Turover & Tom Klee
- 6th - Debbie & David Kaye
- 9th - Susan Croog & Ken Steele
- 10th - Estelle & Harvey Limon (67th)
- 10th - Janet & Frank Tonkonow (67th)
- 17th - Jean & Jim Lawrence

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

- 1st - Judith Sochin
- 1st - Michael Ash
- 7th - Julie Liseo
- 11th - Howard Koenig
- 17th - Larry Lew
- 21st - Natalie Langner
- 21st - Yakov Filler
- 26th - Anita Hillman
- 27th - Lenny Cheerman

**Happy Birthday** to our next generation:

- 12th - Dallas DeFrancesco

**Selichot Services**  
**Saturday, September 16th**  
**8:30 pm**

**Please RSVP to the Temple office by**  
**Wednesday, September 13th**



*John J. Ferry*  
*& Sons Funeral Home*  
*Over 125 Years and 5 Generations*  
*of Compassionate & Professional Service*  
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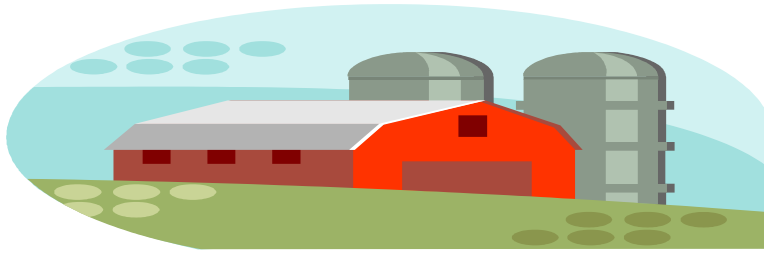
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**Temple B'nai Abraham's  
Auxiliary Hayride  
Sunday September 17, 2017**

**1:00 pm**

Norton's Fruit Farm  
450 Academy Rd. Cheshire

\$9.00 Auxiliary Members and  
\$11.00 Non-Members



Fee includes a half hour hay ride; bag your own apples; small pumpkin; donut holes and apple cider.

RSVP to Susan Massicott 203-630-1947 or the Temple office (203-235-2581) by September 13th to save your spot.



## Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of September

Sept. 1	Marilyn Brodsky Paul Krochmal	Sept. 11	Leah Edelson Anna Dobbins		Bernice Zietz Anna Gallin
Sept. 2	Celia Woien Alvin DuBrow	Sept. 12	Ethel Cooperstein Edith Letendre	Sept. 23	Charles Young Rebecca Gross Esther Groobert Harold Rischall
Sept. 4	William A. Jacobs Elmer Seaman		Henry Krochmal Gertrude Hasburg Bernard Sigmond	Sept. 24	Ruth Krentzman
Sept. 5	Jacob Silverman Lillian Gross Harris Diana Umansky Richard Silver Martin Trueheart Adele Zimmerman	Sept. 13	Irving Rosenthal Gertrude S. Goldberg	Sept. 25	Lewis Palley Jennie Wolk Elias Hertzmark
Sept. 6	Bessie Limon Avis Schreier	Sept. 14	Klari Schwartz David S. Miller Abraham Stein Esther Rosen Murray N. Friedman	Sept. 26	Nathan Schiesel Maurice Harris
Sept. 7	Jacob Cheerman Seymour Siegel Rose White Saul Seligman	Sept. 15	Mark Greenberg	Sept. 27	Doris Brown Mary Kosofsky Robert B. Weiss
Sept. 8	Esther Israel Isadore Limon Morris Cherniack Rose Gelfand Bernie Seidon Mildred Dobris	Sept. 16	Dr. Jesse Leban Enid Avizov Bessie Katz	Sept. 28	Lillian Cohen Betty Goodman Evelyn Greenblatt Esther Hertzmark
Sept. 9	Lillian Stein Sol Ziskis Belle Katt Garry York Jerome Beloff Judi Barrett	Sept. 17	Harold Johnson	Sept. 29	Saul Alderman Jack Friedman Hermine Stern
		Sept. 18	Bertha Davidson Rosalind Normandy Herman Gross Isaac Kaplan	Sept. 30	Isaiah Sirotta Anna Sirotta Marton Schwartz Marvin Gordon Berte Kessler
		Sept. 19	Esther White Harry Semack Dorothy Rischall Bessie Hertzmark		
		Sept. 20	Paul Skigen		
		Sept. 22	Penina Avizov		



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:**

**Leonard Katz** by Richard A. Katz

**Dorothy Grossman** by Glenda & Bub Grossman

**Limon and Cerrotti Family members** by Abby & Gene Cerrotti

**Faye Feldshon** by Sherry Stekloff

**Jack Feldshon** by Sherry Stekloff

**Natalie Levine** by Hilda Trueheart

**Marty Trueheart** by Hilda Trueheart

**Abraham Fish** by Debbie and David Kaye

**Sylvia Brodach** by Shirley & Jay Brodach

### **General Temple Fund**

From the Chidekel Family.

In Honor of **Dottie Levine**, on her 99th birthday, by Jayne Papoosha.

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel** by the Perrys.

In Memory of **June Bogatz** by Rabbi Dana Bogatz.

Thank you to **Rabbi Kohn and the Temple** for their help with information for Bryan's upcoming marriage, by Helene & Howard Koenig.

In Memory of **Beatrice Gerstenblatt** by Jan & Jay Weiss.

In Memory of **Beatrice Gerstenblatt** by Ruth Kahn.

In Memory of **Bea Gerstenblatt** by Ruth Fredericks.

In Memory of **Bea Gerstenblatt** by Beatrice Friedman

### **Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund**

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel** by Marge, Janet, & Larry Kirchheimer.

In Memory of **Shirley Rechtman** by Marge, Janet, & Larry Kirchheimer.

Happy Birthday to **Joel Risch** by Marge, Janet, & Larry Kirchheimer.

In Memory of **Beatrice Gerstenblatt** by Marge, Janet, & Larry Kirchheimer.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

From Carolyn Folk Schwartz.

In Honor of **Rabbi Michael Kohn** receiving the *Tomekh Temimim Board Service Award* by Cantor Gladys Gruenwald & Dr. Ken Berk.

### **Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund**

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel** by Barbara Cohen.

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel** by Lee Ferraiolo.

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel**, beloved husband, father & grandfather, by the Chidekel Family.

In Memory of **Abe Chidekel** by Rita & Herb Bichunsky.

In Memory of **Kelly Ayala** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

### **Cemetery Fund**

In Memory of **Edna Lipman** by Sarah Greenblatt.

In Memory of **Evelyn and Morton Greenblatt** by Sarah Greenblatt.

In Memory of **David Bernstein**, father and grandfather of the Paula Eisner and Richard Bernstein families.

In Memory of **Ruth and Archie Kaufman** by Connie Kaufman Rizoli.