



THE SCRIBE

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

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November, 2017

Heshvan - Kislev 5778

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Personal Safety

Over the past few years, I have written and spoken on antisemitism. For most of us, however, we have had little personal experience with antisemitism, other than what we may have seen on the news. This past month brought to light another issue which far too often has been swept under the rug, especially in the Jewish community.

After the sexual misconduct of Harvey Weinstein was disclosed in an article in the New York Times, actress after actress came forward with her story of harassment. This was followed by a “Me, Too” campaign on social media where women were encouraged to come forward with their stories of such treatment. Like alcoholism and drug addiction, sexual misconduct is not a topic of discussion in Jewish communities, but it exists there, as it does in every other segment of society.

A rabbi in the Orthodox community of Monsey, New York, who acts as a counselor for sexual abuse victims, spoke out at a meeting to address community challenges, telling the group: “Every night I have parents weeping in my office, bringing their children, victims of abuse.” Abuse, assault and harassment happen to everyone women in mini-skirts, long pleated skirts, and even to men.

Unfortunately, as individuals, we cannot prevent such actions from occurring. What we can do, however, is to change our thinking. I read about a defense lawyer, when picking a jury, asked the only 12 women in the jury pool if they had been a victim of rape, abuse, or sexual harassment. When all 12 answered in the affirmative, they were excused. No one asked the male members of the pool that question, or whether they had committed any of those acts. We always refer to the victims, and almost never to the perpetrators. “Women must protect themselves, dress modestly, etc.” It’s never, “Men need to stop committing those assaults.”

And we must speak up when we see those actions occurring and we must speak out about the problem. We can no longer afford to resolve these matters behind closed doors, or whisper about them, as if they didn’t happen. All of us, but especially women, need to protect our personal space. Refuse one-on-one closed door meetings, especially with those holding power over you.

There is a principle of *halakhah* called *yihud* — which prohibits a woman being secluded alone with a man to whom she is not married. Observing this mitzvah will not prevent all attacks, but it is a start. Be aware of your surroundings, be smart in your decisions, and speak up, so no more names will be added to those who said “Me, too”

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



CALENDAR EVENTS

2 Thursday

7:30 pm Auxiliary Meeting

3 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

4 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

7:30 pm Military Whist Card Party

5 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

9 Thursday

7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting

10 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

11 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

12 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

16 Thursday

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

17 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

NOVEMBER 2017

18 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

19 Sunday

No Jewry Duty

24 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

25 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

26 Sunday

No Jewry Duty

High Holiday Pledge

Were you visiting your family on Yom Kippur? Did you attend services at their synagogue? Were you at our wonderful services but forgot to bring your ticket/pledge card with you? It is never too late to make a pledge for the Yom Kippur Appeal. You may send in your check with a note on the memo line stating this is your Yom Kippur pledge. We thank you in advance for your generous donation.

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

Happy Anniversary to our couples celebrating an anniversary in November:

7th - Laurie & Roger Arnold

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating a birthday in November:

8th - Howard Levine
9th - Hollye Lew
14th - Joe Fine
15th - Marilyn Mazanek
16th - Mark Burwick
18th - Michael Barker
18th - Marcia Caplan
19th - Beth Ann Eisner
23rd - Kathie Harris
24th - Sanford Sheftel
28th - Jean Nemeth
29th - Elayne Koslow
29th - Valerie Klein

Auxiliary News November 2017

In September we had our Annual Auxiliary Hayride at Norton's Fruit Farm in Cheshire. This fun event was attended by seventeen people who enjoyed a half hour hayride, picked a bag of apples, received a pumpkin to take home, and had cider and apple donut holes to snack on. We had nice weather for this fun event.

I would like to thank the following people who helped put up the sukkah this year: Orit Avizov, James Kendzierski, Howard Koenig, Linda and Allen Caplan, Shari, Roger and Colby Turner, Marc Nemeth, Bob Axelrod, and Roy, and Robert Massicott. We got it up in 1-hour flat...a new record!! Your efforts and strong arms are greatly appreciated.

There was a small turnout for our Simchat Torah dinner. The event featured a light dairy dinner, followed by the customary service. It is not too late to attend our Brunch and Movie on Sunday, Oct. 29. This begins at 10:15 am; the movie is "The Book Thief".

Don't miss out.... make your reservation for the Military Whist. This bi-annual event is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th at 7:30 pm. You don't want to miss out on this fun filled evening of card playing, noshing on snacks and delicious desserts as well as chatting with friends both old and new. Call the Temple office and reserve your table today!!!

Chanukah is coming. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your holiday shopping done early at our Annual Chanukah Gift Fair. The Gift Fair will be open on Sunday, December 10th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for your convenience. Special arrangements can be made to view our holiday merchandise by contacting the Temple office.

Come out and join your TBA Family celebrate Chanukah!! On Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 pm we will be having a light dairy dinner and then make-your-own sundaes. This delicious dinner/dessert fare will be served by the light of our burning menorah candles. It's a beautiful, fun way to celebrate this festive occasion. RSVP to the Temple office by Friday, December 15th.

Susan Massicott
Auxiliary Chair

Note to long time Temple members:

Former Temple member Charlotte Brick passed away on October 10, 2017. She was the widow of Dr. Sidney Brick. She was survived by her children Lawrence Brick and Joyce Nitkin, plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Military Whist Card Party **Saturday, November 4th 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 1st 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



Chanukah Gift Fair

Chanukah is coming. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your holiday shopping done early at our Annual Chanukah Gift Fair.

The Gift Fair will be open:

Sunday: December 10th
from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

****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!!!!



Chanukah Dinner and Make Your Own Sundae Celebration

Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 PM

Come join us for a light dairy meal that will include tuna sandwiches, latkes, ice cream and the fixings!!

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, December 14th.

Don't forget to bring your menorah to light during the festivities.
Candles will be provided.



Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of November

Nov. 1	Vita Cherniack		Bessie Levine	Nov. 23	Bessie Silverman
Nov. 2	Goldie Goldstein		William Israel		Morris Port
	Martha Wax	Nov. 12	Casper Helper		Bernard White
	Lena Grossman		Frances Loitz		Myron Arlook
Nov. 3	Anna Bichunsky		Pearl Dembowitz		Shirley Sodel
	Mary Katz		Arthur Limon		Bernard Lew
	Jean Koster		Max Shulkin	Nov. 24	Louis Rozen
	Daniel Kahn		Barbara Rubin		Avis Levin
Nov. 4	I. Albert Lipman	Nov. 13	Abe Hurwitz		Benjamin Simonowsky
Nov. 5	Jonah Umansky		Rebecca Goldstein		Maurice Weinberg
	Abraham Denoff		Annie Becker Kolbin	Nov. 25	Milton Bolton
	Lejzor Telis		Joseph Dobris	Nov. 26	Irving Sorman
Nov. 6	Leah Jacobs		Samuel Novak		Marion Beloff
	Benjamin Krentzman		Ida Lapidés		Bella Katz
	Louis Kaplan	Nov. 14	Esther Rubenstein		Jay Grossman
	Asher Katz		Morris Bittman	Nov. 27	Rebecca Dobris
	Anna Dvora Muravnick	Nov. 15	Isidore Friedman		Harry Weinberg
	Sadie Kleban	Nov. 16	Sally Aron	Nov. 28	Abraham Katz
Nov. 7	Frances Rothfarb		Anna Muravnick		Mike Eisner
	Emma Cohen		Jack Koslow		Aaron Bush
	Vellya Israel		Hattie Novak	Nov. 29	Mary Grossman
	Paul Kaplan	Nov. 18	Betty Bichunsky		Sydelle Koslow
Nov. 8	Bertha Sklar		Elinor Zakin		Anna Scheer
	Rose Shoag		Natalie Greenzweig		Evelyn Rozen
	Rose Seligman		Ida Chausky	Nov. 30	Raul Shoag
	Peter Weiss	Nov. 19	Abe Bishins		Frederick Harris
	Jerome Johnson		Anna R. Limon		Samuel Levine
Nov. 9	Myer Edelson	Nov. 20	Jerome Weisser		Rhoda Chain
	Dr. Simeon Cohen	Nov. 21	Eliezer Rubenstein		Ada Blume
	Emma Port		Bruin Lipman		Sadie Berman
	Mary Fleischer		Edith Bishinsky		Rose Gottlieb
	Rose Roden		Samuel Elkin		Anne Emple Kaplan
	Sylvia Lew		Edith Baron		
Nov. 11	Bessie Hurwitz	Nov. 22	Julius Grossman		



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:

William Povlotsky by Richard A. Katz
Mary Katz by Richard A. Katz
Dr. Arthur A. Weiss by Sherly Weathers
Thomas Simonetta by Jeanette Simonetta
Catherine Simonetta by Jeanette Simonetta

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Gershon Perceman** by Jan & Jay Weiss.

In Memory of **Gussie & Sam Gerber, Ida Gerber, Bea & Abe Gerber** by Gail Leaser.
In Memory of **Bea Gerstenblatt** by Shari & Roger Turner.

Happy Birthday wishes to Kenneth R. Perry by Mom and Steve.

In Memory of **Abby Sheftel** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

In Memory of **Charlotte Brick** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of **Abby Sheftel** by Flora Shorr.

Cemetery Fund

In Memory of **Berte & Joseph Kessler** and **Rose & Louis Kessler** by Linda & David Fishman.

In Memory of **Dora Hassel & Julius Hassel** by Tom Hessel.

In Memory of **Gershon Perceman** by Flora Shorr.

In Memory of **Abby Sheftel** by Jack Shorr.

In Memory of **Mike Eisner** by the Eisner Family.

Chevra Kadisha Fund

In Memory of **Francis McGoldrick** by Gerry Emple.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Memory of **Gershon Perceman** by Jack Shorr.

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