



# 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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January, 2018

Tevet - Shevat 5778

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

## Newtown

I am writing this column on December 14. It was exactly five years ago that young, innocent lives were callously snuffed out in Newtown. Since that time, this senseless killing of innocents has been repeated time and again in this country — Orlando, San Bernadino, Sutherland Springs and elsewhere. Our religious tradition emphasizes the sanctity of human life. Our Torah commands “thou shalt not murder” and the Talmud teaches that “he who takes one life . . . it is as though he has destroyed the entire world; and he who saves one life . . . it is as though he has saved the entire world.”

Young lives are being cut short all over the world. Tikkun Olam — repairing the world — has been the singular focus of liberal Jews in the United States, but we cannot repair the world if we simply put Newtown and these other tragedies behind us and move on. We must dedicate ourselves to the principle our parents and grandparents espoused 70 years ago: Od Lo — Never Again.

As we mark this tragic anniversary, I am reminded that Abraham Joshua Heschel taught us that “there are three ways to mourn. The first is to cry. The second is to grow silent. The third is to transform sorrow into song. We have shed tears and we have been struck silent, as no words seemed sufficient. Let now our song be heard, “Adonai oz l’amo yitein; Adonai y’vareikh et amo ba’shalom” — “Adonai will give strength to God’s people; Adonai will bless God’s people with peace.”

## USCJ Convention

The theme of this year’s convention was “Dare Together” and its ostensible purpose was to “dare” the Movement to embrace the challenges both Judaism and the Movement face in the 21st century. If I had to guess, Rabbis and Cantors formed a larger proportion of attendees than previous one’s I have attended. Sessions I attended included “The Exodus — How it Happened; Why it Matters”; State Making — Zionist Pathways to Statehood”; “Where does Torah Belong”; “Disrupting our Synagogues — What it Takes; What it Gains”; “We are More than One Community”; “Using Torah and Prayer as a Gateway into the Jewish Community”; “Our Clergy Can’t Officiate at your Wedding, but....”; Definitions of Zionism and Critical Israel Questions”; In any Language — Teaching the Talmud in English”; and Time to Say Kaddish for Tikkun Olam?”.

One lesson I took away from those intensive sessions is that Jews of the younger generations (Gen X; Gen Y and Gen Z) remain very interested in Judaism; they just look at community very differently than do we. Their communities are fluid, not tied down to a particular location — though they may be tied to a location for a particular event, such as a class, or prayer. In other words, we have to go out and meet them; they are not coming to us.

The other lesson I took away from the convention was that USCJ really doesn’t know how to deal with smaller, aging congregations that are not located in a major metropolitan area. I suggested to several leaders that they needed a task force on that issue and I volunteered to serve on it, should they convene one. And I did secure a commitment for assistance, if we request it, in our efforts to determine our future.

B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



## CALENDAR EVENTS

## JANUARY 2018

**1 Monday**  
**Happy New Year**

**4 Thursday**  
**7:30 pm** Auxiliary Committee Meeting

**5 Friday**  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**6 Saturday**  
**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services  
Adult Education luncheon to follow services

**7 Sunday**  
**9:30 am** Jewry Duty

**12 Friday**  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**13 Saturday**  
**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**14 Sunday**  
**9:30 am** Jewry Duty

**19 Friday**  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**20 Saturday**  
**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services  
Luncheon to follow services

**21 Sunday**  
**9:30 am** Jewry Duty

**25 Thursday**  
**7:00 pm** Ritual Committee Meeting  
**7:30 pm** Board of Directors' Meeting

**26 Friday**  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Services

**27 Saturday**  
**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**28 Sunday**  
**9:30 am** Jewry Duty



### Winter is Coming

### Friday Night - Saturday or Sunday Morning

Please check the following TV stations:

WFSB - chan. 3 (CBS- CT)

WTNH - chan. 8 (ABC-CT)

WVIT - chan. 30 (NBC-CT)

WTIC - chan. 6 (Fox-CT)

We will get the listing on as soon as possible.

Please do not call the Temple office.

**Remember - if in doubt - Safety First!**



### **AN INTERFAITH CEMETERY ESTABLISHED WITHIN TEMPLE CENETERY**

At its December 6, 2017 meeting the Cemetery Committee designated the North West corner of the Cemetery, namely section E rows 22, 23 & 24 as an interfaith Cemetery for members and their non-Jewish spouse and unmarried dependent children. Row 21 will be planted with a hedge and will serve as the separation between the Jewish and interfaith section of the cemetery.

Parameters for those entitled to be buried in the interfaith section were set as follows: Members, their spouse and unmarried, dependent children. For this purpose the maximum age of a child who is entitled to be buried in that section will be set at 26. A special waiver could be granted for severely handicapped dependent children.

Plot rates at this section are set to be the same as any other plot in the cemetery for a member, a member's spouse and their children.

Those who have burial plots within the Jewish section of the cemetery can opt to move to the interfaith section if they choose to be buried there with their non-Jewish spouse. This will apply to members and non-members alike.

Plot owners who are non-members will be charged non-member interment fees, which will be the same as interment cost to non-members anywhere else in the cemetery.

Types of service at the cemetery; who can officiate; what kind of symbols would be permitted on monuments, etc. will be in accordance to the directives of the Committee of Jewish Laws and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly AKA The Law Committee.

The Committee decided to revise the interment charges. New charges will be set at a future meeting.

The committee further decided to revise the Cemetery By-laws. Fred Zierler will head this project.

Warm wishes,  
Ruth Borsuk  
Cemetery Chair

**Mazal Tov**

**Happy Anniversary** to our couples celebrating an anniversary in **January**:

2nd - Cathy & Michael Burwick

**Happy Birthday** to our members celebrating a birthday during **January**:

1st - Frank Tonkonow  
17th - Helene Koenig  
19th - Debbie Kaye  
21st - Jim Lawrence  
28th - Doris Goldstein  
28th - Marjorie Perry

Please Remember - if you or your spouse are unfortunately hospitalized, we need a call from you requesting a visit by Rabbi Kohn. Hospitals no longer make such calls and we cannot call to get information. We must all follow the HIPA regulations. So just call the office (203-235-2581) and Rabbi Kohn will arrange to make a short visit.

We regret to inform you of the passing of:

**Irv Grabstein**  
Husband of Rabbi Dana Bogatz

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

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## Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of January

Jan. 1	Marlene Kaller Harold Warren Rose Muchnick		Benjamin Ledewitz Dorothy Werfel		Jan. 21	Elizabeth Simonowsky Rose Ernstoff
Jan. 2	Sarah Goodman M. David Freedman	Jan. 13	Dorothy Greenblatt Edith Barker Bella DuBrow		Jan. 22	Dr. Louis Pierson Aaron Brown Philip Grossman
Jan. 3	Minnie Feltzin Nathan Strauss	Jan. 14	Max Zakin Morris Sheftel Hoskar Frank		Jan. 23	Harry Hurwitz May D. McCaffrey
Jan. 4	Lena Goodstein Rose Harris Fannie Levin Adele Krochmal		Esedor Derecktor Rose Katz		Jan. 24	Esther Derecktor Herman Dressler
Jan. 5	Morris Arovas	Jan. 15	Hattie Henken		Jan. 25	Rebecca Gottlieb
Jan. 6	Anne Pierson		Mollie Katz		Jan. 26	Judith Hirsch Milton Sodel Fannie Cohen
Jan. 7	Joseph Risen Jean Cohen Dr. Alan Rozen Esther Muravnick Sophie Sugarman		Abraham Paterson Charlotte Buchman Abraham Epstein Abraham Harris		Jan. 27	Anita Bernstein Albert Katz Joseph Dressler Joseph Gittleman Leon Wolk
Jan. 8	Lillian Teller Bessie Ledewitz Rebecca Kaplan Frieda Pierson Moshe Shweky David Clayton Paul Levine Myron Zellman	Jan. 16	Max Burwick Michele Zimmiti			
		Jan. 17	Lee Silver Max Seligman Rebecca Cheikin Fannie Grossman		Jan. 28	Sol Cheerman Ilse Jacobs Louis Ziskis Maude Pick Anita Chausky
		Jan. 18	Rose Sodel Julius D. Friedman Manuel Gould Gussie Gerber		Jan. 29	Frances Lable Max Zietz Jean Feinberg Jules Greenzweig
Jan. 9	Sarah Gordon Max Hoffman	Jan. 19	Sam Gerber Julius Bogatz Rose Hasburg Charles Hagenauer Hope Tonkonow Leo Smith		Jan. 30	Etta Hozer David Mekies George Shapiro Roza Tennenberg
Jan. 10	David Arovas Harry Cohen Elizabeth Sigman Avis Leban					
Jan. 11	Dorothy Klein Blanche Koenig	Jan. 20	Zigmund Ziring Banne Sodel Evelyn Grossman Marion Bienstock		Jan. 31	Lena Becker Harold Simons Sarah H. White
Jan. 12	Marks Wilder David Resident Jacob Tonkonow					



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:**

**Mildred Goralnik** by Richard A. Katz

**Herbert Sperling** by Michael & Bonnie Sperling

**Rose Sperling** by Michael & Bonnie Sperling

**Murray Schutz** by Michael & Bonnie Sperling

**Irving Sorman** by Lesley & David Chidekel

**Sidney and Florence Kaye** by Susan Kaye Quinn

**Elizabeth Sigman** by Stuart Shapiro

**Ethel and Abraham Cooperstein** by Barbara Roller

**Jerry Kosofsky** by Martha (Jane) Weisberg

**Anita Bernstein** by the Paula Eisner & Richard Bernstein families

### **General Temple Fund**

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Bonnie & Michael Sperling.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Jean & Marc Nemeth.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Debbie & David Kaye.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Hilda Trueheart.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by the Trueheart/Ross Family.

Get Well Wishes to **Helene Koenig** by Debbie & David Kaye.

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

In Memory of beloved grandfather **Milo Levin** by Judy Zietz Siegel & Ed Siegel and Family.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Shana, Alyn, & Travis Adams.

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

In Memory of **Howard Gary Corbin** by Melinda Shorr & Michael Schaeffer.

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by the Chevra Kadisha.

Get Well Wishes to **Dr. David Ross-Russell** by the Chevra Kadisha.

Get Well Wishes to **Dr. David Ross-Russell** by Marge Kirchheimer.

In Memory of **Frederick Fenzel** by Marge Kirchheimer.

### **Sophie and Julius Barker Scholarship Fund**

In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Shelley & Michael Barker.