



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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MERIDEN, CT 06450

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February, 2018

Shevat – Adar 5778

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Purim

When February arrives, Purim cannot be far behind. Our annual Megillah reading and costume contest will be held on Wednesday evening, February 28. Those who have attended in past years have found this to be a most enjoyable evening. We come in costume. We take turns reading a portion of the Megillah, some in Hebrew and others in English. There is a costume parade, with prizes in several categories. And there will be a Purim Quiz.

Four Chaplains Shabbat

On February 3, 1943, a German U-Boat sunk the USAT Dorchester, a civilian coastal liner converted into a military and civilian transport ship, in the North Atlantic Ocean, less than 150 miles from its destination in Greenland. On board the Dorchester were four Army Chaplains: Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist Minister; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed Minister; and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Rabbi. Those four chaplains spread out among the men, tried to calm them and when the life jacket supply was exhausted, gave theirs to four young men.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains--arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the Dorchester, only 230 survived. When the news of the tragedy reached America, the nation was stunned by heroic conduct of the four chaplains. The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to each of those brave Chaplains, represented by their the next of kin.

Although Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the Chaplains, the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire precluded such an action. Therefore, a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor — and the only time such a medal has ever been issued — was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

On Shabbat Morning, February 3, 2018, the 75th anniversary of their heroic act, as we read in the synagogue the *asseret ha'dibrot* — the Ten Pronouncements — a code by which those heroic Chaplains lived and died, we will honor their memory and celebrate their selfless actions, along with Conservative congregations throughout the country.

Update on the Kotel Case

The most recent Israel Supreme Court hearing on the three lawsuits over prayer at the Kotel took place on January 13, with new Justices sitting. The Israeli government argued that it has plans to upgrade and expand the egalitarian section (Robinson's Arch), but does not intend to implement the other provisions of the now-frozen compromise deal. The Justices appeared favorably inclined to this assertion, but required the government to provide detailed plans by April, which plans will be prepared by the Israel Antiquities Authority, and will allow the Conservative and Reform movements time to reply. The Court also criticized the state for not acting more vigilantly to prevent regular occurrences of violence and desecration at the Kotel.



CALENDAR EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2018

2 Friday

5:30 pm We have been invited to attend Shabbat Evening Services and dinner at Adath Israel in Middletown

3 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

4 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

8 Thursday

7:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

9 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

10 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services
Luncheon to follow

11 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

16 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

17 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

18 Sunday

NO Jewry Duty

22 Thursday

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

23 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

24 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services
Luncheon to follow

25 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

28 Wednesday

7:00 pm Megillah Reading



Winter is Here!

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.

Remember - if in doubt - Safety First!

The Meriden Clergy Association is again having a Food Drive for the Meriden Soup Kitchen.

This year we are requested to collect the following canned goods: peas, corn, carrots, and green beans. Your canned goods may be left in the boxes in the hallway or your monetary donations may be made out to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and we will purchase the super large cans of veggies.



**Thank you in advance
for your generous donations.
Canned goods and monetary
donations need to be in to the
Temple by Tues. February 13th.**

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating a birthday during February:

3rd Eleanor Denenberg
9th Linda Caplan
17th Allen Caplan
22nd Sherry Stekloff
25th Lesley Chidekel

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

2nd Ben Steele
8th Robert Massicott



Monday, February 19, 2018

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Military Whist Card Party **Saturday, March 10th, 2018** **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, March 7th 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

Babysitting will be provided at \$10 per child

A 50/50 raffle will be held



Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of February

Feb. 1	Gayle Shibetta		Robert Schupack		Arnold Cohen
Feb. 2	Harris Glasser		Arthur Weiner		Jacob Hirsch
	Bessie Zietz	Feb. 13	Gerald Resnick		Geraldine Turover
	Perla Dickter		Charles Muravnick		Chester Trueheart
Feb. 3	Lori Shapiro		Abraham Lapides		Allan Kaye
	James Uvino	Feb. 14	Samuel Miller	Feb. 22	Benjamin Pollack
	Mamie Melton		Bernard Levitt		Nelda Greengas
	Morris Fightlin		Hannah Klamkin		Jack Small
	Eleanor Lowell		Avraham		Norman Landsberg
Feb. 4	Anna Levy		Kirchheimer		Joseph Rachels
	Lawrence Roden		Rachella Rose Kay	Feb. 23	Yetta Friedman
Feb. 5	Philip Orentlich		Jack Greenberg		Lillian Harris
	Lena Jacobson	Feb. 15	Rachel Horn		Dale Bauer
	Henry Bishinsky		Pauline Gerstenblatt		Lenore Winkleman
	Leon Wasserman		Sarah T. Friedman	Feb. 24	John Blume
Feb. 6	Ephriam Troy		Shirley Lee		Abraham Grossman
	Bertha Harris	Feb. 16	Lucy White		Nehuma
	Rose Pierson		Rose Gold		Simonowsky
	Seymour Woien		Fannie Levine	Feb. 25	Gussie Shapiro
Feb. 7	Nathan Levin		Harry Zaiantz		Edward Apfelbaum
	Sanford Shorr		Benjamin Hozer		Irene Hopenhajm
	Rebecca Sheftel		Joseph Barker		Jon Harris
	Hazel Cherniack	Feb. 17	Harry Grossman		Benjamin Daniels
	Ruth Young		Abraham White	Feb. 26	Norman Bogatz
Feb. 8	Benjamin Rosenthal		Milton Kalmanowitz		Edward Perry
Feb. 9	Lena Friedman		Isaac Dressler		Michael Levin
	Paul Bishins		Jennie Opinsky		Barry Koslow
	Nathan Mautner	Feb. 18	Mildred Edelson		Anna Buchman
	Adelaide Zellman		Jack Bernstein		Lillian Sierra
Feb. 10	Muriel Berson		Ida Feinberg	Feb. 27	Samuel Greenblatt
	Samuel Bittman		Arthur Landsberg		Jacob Weiss
	Dina Perloth	Feb. 19	Anne Weinberg		Sidney Kahn
Feb. 11	Esther Apfelbaum		Alex Shoag		Rebecca Lurie
	Joseph Fine		Jacob Gottlieb		Belle Semack
	Samson Gordon	Feb. 20	Joseph Muravnick		Barbara Brown
	Irving Godfried		Frances Steinfeld	Feb. 28	Max White
	Sadie Lenzner		Edith Zaiantz		Israel Feinberg
	Bertha Goldring		Charles Emple		Ann Shapiro
Feb. 12	Oscar Muravnick		Isaac Grossman		Martin Lable
	Simon Friedman		Bess Perry		Joseph Nichols
	David Levine	Feb. 21	Cindy Lee Frank		
	Tillie Fine		Geraldine Kahn		



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:
Harry Goodman** by Richard Goodman

General Temple Fund
In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by Dorothy & David Elkin.
In Memory of **Irv Grabstein** by the Perrys.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund
In Memory of beloved grandfather, **Max Zietz**, by Judy (Zietz) and Ed Siegel and family.

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## B'nai Abraham Trip to Israel



We have received a preliminary itinerary for discussion purposes only. This is our opportunity to peruse a proposed itinerary, identify what we would like to see and do, what we would like to add or change, and to begin to create the framework for our trip. We will meet on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm.