



THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham
Now Celebrating its 130th Year
Affiliated with the United Synagogue
Of Conservative Judaism

P.O. BOX 745
MERIDEN, CT 06450
PHONE 203-235-2581

March , 2019

Adar I – Adar II 5779

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Shabbat Observance

A week before I am writing this column, I attended a conference at my pluralistic seminary on the topic of Shabbat. In last month's Scribe, I had mentioned that today, Jews who affiliate with Conservative synagogues are for the most part not practicing Conservative Judaism, in that they do not consider halakhah — Jewish law — to be binding on their daily lives. Even among those who do observe Shabbat or Kashrut, many do so out of a sense of habit, or choice, rather than obligation. And one of the more interesting sessions at my conference, was a discussion of Shabbat observance by a Conservative Rabbi with young children, a Reform rabbi with college age children, and the wife of a Conservative rabbi, with grown children and grandchildren.

The observance pattern of wife of the Conservative rabbi was the most strict — she also is the daughter of a rabbi. She will not ride on Shabbat and she described the extraordinary lengths she went both to attend her children's performances and to assure that those activities were consistent with Shabbat observance. Twice a month, the Reform rabbi, who is both her congregation's assistant rabbi and educator, is in her synagogue building from Shabbat morning to evening participating in several services and educational programming throughout the day. The other two Shabbatot, she is at home with her family. On those days, she follows three principles — rest, holiness, and joy. As a Reform Jew, she does not follow halakhah — Jewish law — regarding Shabbat, so she will drive and use electronic devices, but will not engage in activities that detract from the holiness of the day, such as shopping.

The presentation that I found the most interesting was that by the Conservative rabbi, who is serving a congregation in a small town about two hours north of Manhattan. Prior to taking that pulpit, he had lived in Shabbat observant communities, such as the Upper West Side of New York and Jerusalem. When he first found himself and his young family isolated from that type of community it was a lonely existence, something with which I can empathize. Eventually, he began to rethink his Shabbat observance. Some changes were made out of perceived necessity — his pregnant wife could not walk to the synagogue on icy streets, so they drove. Eventually, like the Reform rabbi, he settled on three principles — Be Connected, Be Still, and Be Satisfied.

Be Connected — he began to be a host, inviting people over, and a guest, visiting others, even if it meant driving. Shabbat is not meant to be observed alone. The wife of a well-known rabbi once remarked: "Shabbat is meant to be a joy, not a prison" when looking for stimulating activities for their young daughter.

Be Still — Slow down. Be present in the moment. Don't schedule a full day of activities. Turn off your smart phone. Practice activities on Shabbat that allow you to enjoy the day.

Be Satisfied — Be thankful for the blessings in your life, even in difficult times. Nap. Eat for pleasure. Sing, or find another expression of happiness.

The principles followed by those two rabbis make a lot of sense. The world has changed since the 39 categories of prohibited activities on Shabbat were codified in the Mishnah some 1800 years ago. In particular, families are scattered, often no longer living together, or even in the same country, let alone community. It is difficult to keep in touch, or to extend Shabbat blessings with family members. One practice I heard is to use a land line to call family and friends on Shabbat, leaving the smart phone off for the day.

For all the changes the Conservative Movement has made in the past decade or two to bring the Movement in line with evolving social norms, it has remained stubbornly traditional on Shabbat observance. Outside of Shabbat observant communities in a few large cities, Conservative Jews face a choice of isolation or Shabbat non-observance. Perhaps, there might be a third way.

Purim

This joyous holiday will be observed at Adath Israel on Wednesday evening, March 20, at 6:00 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 do not endanger yourself or others.

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 like this year), 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.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

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IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE:

Friday, March 1 - No Evening Services at Lawrence Court. We will be attending Shabbat services at Adath Israel for their Pray - Eat - Sing, beginning at 5:30. RSVP to 860346-4709 as soon as possible.

Saturday, March 9 - Military Whist Card Party to be held at Adath Israel. Doors open at 7:00. Cost is \$5 per person. An evening of fun and making new friends.

Wednesday, March 20 - Purim Celebration - Megillah Reading. Held at Adath Israel. The celebration begins at 6:00 pm. Come in costume. Enjoy dinner. Make lots of noise.

College Scholarship forms are now available. There is an earlier deadline, so please get the forms as soon as possible.



CALENDAR EVENTS

1 Friday

5:30 pm No Shabbat Evening Services here
Pray - Eat - Sing at Adath Israel

2 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

3 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

8 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

9 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services
7:00 pm Military Whist Card Party
Adath Israel - 8 Broad St., Middletown

10 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

14 Thursday

7:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

15 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

16 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services



MARCH 2019

17 Sunday

9:30 am Jewry Duty

20 Wednesday

6:00 pm Purim - Reading Megillah of Esther

We will be joining Adath Israel for the celebration of Purim this year. More info enclosed.

22 Friday

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

23 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

24 Sunday

9:30 am NO Jewry Duty

28 Thursday

7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting

29 Friday

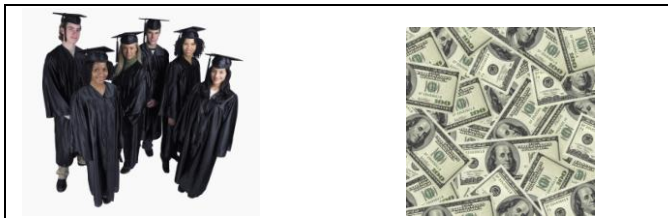
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

30 Saturday

9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

31 Sunday

9:30 am NO Jewry Duty



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 **April 30th, 2019**. 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 **April 30th**, 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 4/30/2019

to: Jewish Federation of Greater Meriden
 P.O. Box 745
 Meriden, CT 06450-9998

PRAY EAT SING

**Friday, March 1
5:30 pm**

Please bring non-perishable food item
for Amazing Grace Food Pantry.
Free for members of Adath Israel,
Temple B'nai Abraham, and 1st-time
guests.

Returning guests: \$10 pp or
\$18/family

Please RSVP to Adath Israel 860-346-
4709 by Wed. Feb. 27th
www.adathisraelct.org

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**Adath Israel - Book Club
March 12th - 7 pm Nester
Center**

**Estee: A Success Story by
Estee Lauder**

Adath Israel Book Club is free and open to
anyone who desires great discussions
about fascinating books on Jewish topics.

For more information please contact:
Roberta Glass at 860-632-1320
(rjlevine610@gmail.com) or
Holly Simon at 860-395-8989
(hfpsimon@gmail.com)

Purim

**Megillah Reading
and Celebration**

**6:00 pm at
Adath Israel**

Enjoy a wonderful dinner

Make friends - Make noise

**Please RSVP to:
Adath Israel
(860-346-4709)
by March 13th.**

* * * * *

Attorney E. Jack Shorr

of Counsel Ceneviva

Law Firm

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Tel: 203-238-3600

Fax: 203-235-6945

Email: ejack@cenevivalaw.com

Military Whist Card Party

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Doors open 7:00 pm

Playing begins 7:30 pm

Come and enjoy an evening of card playing, conversation, snacks and delicious desserts at Adath Israel.

Bring your friends and family members to this joint event with members of Temple B'nai Abraham and Adath Israel.

We will teach you this very easy and fun card game.
Win prizes (first and last place tables).

Participate in a 50/50 raffle.

Come with a partner or a full table or two. (4 players to a table).

Please call Adath Israel office (860) 346-4709 by
Wednesday, February 27th to reserve a table.

If possible, please bring a bridge table (let us know in advance).

Admission: \$5 per person



Time to restock your gift cards.

***Time to think about Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation gifts,
bridal and baby showers, wedding 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 Monday, April 15, 2019.** The gift cards will be available about late 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

Gift Card Fundraiser to Benefit Temple B'nai Abraham

Orders must be received in the Temple office by Monday, April 15, 2019.

| | Amount on card | Percent | # cards | Total \$ | | Amount on Card | Percent | # cards | Total \$ |
|--|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|---|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| <u>Clothing/Department Stores</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Aerie | \$25 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Dunkin Donuts | \$10 | 3% | _____ | _____ |
| Aeropostale | \$25 | 7% | _____ | _____ | IHop | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ |
| American Eagle | \$25 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Long Horn Steakhouse | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| The Children's Place | \$25 | 12% | _____ | _____ | Olive Garden | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| Dress Barn | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Outback Steakhouse | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ |
| Express | \$25 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Panera Bread | \$10 or \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| Foot Locker | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ | PF Chang's | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ |
| Gap/Banana Republic | \$25 | 14% | _____ | _____ | Rainforest Café | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| Gymboree | \$25 | 13% | _____ | _____ | Red Lobster | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| JC Penney | \$25 or \$100 | 5% | _____ | _____ | Red Robin | \$25 | 11% | _____ | _____ |
| JCrew | \$25 | 13% | _____ | _____ | Ruby Tuesday | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ |
| Jo-Ann Fabric | \$25 | 6% | _____ | _____ | Ruth's Chris | \$50 | 10% | _____ | _____ |
| Kmart | \$25 or \$50 | 4% | _____ | _____ | Starbucks | \$10 or \$25 | 7% | _____ | _____ |
| Kohl's | \$25 or \$100 | 4% | _____ | _____ | Subway | \$10 or \$50 | 3% | _____ | _____ |
| Limited | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ | Taco Bell | \$10 | 5% | _____ | _____ |
| LL Bean | \$25 | 16% | _____ | _____ | Texas Roadhouse | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ |
| Land's End | \$25 | 18% | _____ | _____ | TGI Friday's | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ |
| Lord & Taylor | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Wendy's | \$10 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Macy's | \$25 or \$100 | 10% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Marshall's/TJX | \$25 or \$100 | 7% | _____ | _____ | <u>Home & Cosmetics</u> | | | | |
| Michaels | \$25 | 4% | _____ | _____ | Bath & Body Works | \$10 or \$25 | 13% | _____ | _____ |
| Old Navy | \$25 | 14% | _____ | _____ | Bed, Bath & Beyond | \$25 | 7% | _____ | _____ |
| Payless Shoes | \$20 | 13% | _____ | _____ | CVS Pharmacy | \$25 | 6% | _____ | _____ |
| Pier 1 Imports | \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ | Rite Aid | \$25 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Pottery Barn | \$25 or \$100 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Walgreen's | \$25 | 6% | _____ | _____ |
| Sam's Club | \$25 | 2.5% | _____ | _____ | Ulta | \$25 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Sears | \$25 or \$100 | 4% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Talbot's | \$25 | 13% | _____ | _____ | <u>Home Improvement</u> | | | | |
| Tanger Outlets | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Ace Hardware | \$25 or \$100 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Target | \$25 or \$100 | 2% | _____ | _____ | Home Depot | \$25 or \$100 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Toys-R-Us | \$20 | 1.5% | _____ | _____ | Lowe's | \$25 or \$100 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Wal-Mart | \$25 or \$100 | 2.5% | _____ | _____ | Merry Maids | \$50 | 5% | _____ | _____ |
| Zappos.com | \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Restoration Hdwr | \$25 or \$100 | 12% | _____ | _____ |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Books, Music, Movies, Photos, & More</u> | | | | | <u>Sports and Pets</u> | | | | |
| Amazon.com | \$25 | 3% | _____ | _____ | Cabela's | \$25 | 11% | _____ | _____ |
| Barnes & Noble | \$10 or \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ | Dick's Sporting Goods | \$25 | 5% | _____ | _____ |
| Groupon.com | \$25 | 7% | _____ | _____ | PetSmart | \$25 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| iTunes | \$15 or \$25 | 5% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| <u>Restaurants & Food</u> | | | | | <u>Electronics & Office Supplies</u> | | | | |
| 99 Restaurants | \$25 | 13% | _____ | _____ | Best Buy | \$25 or \$100 | 3% | _____ | _____ |
| Applebee's | \$25 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Game Stop | \$25 | 3% | _____ | _____ |
| Bertucci's | \$25 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Hallmark | \$25 | 4% | _____ | _____ |
| Boston Market | \$10 | 12% | _____ | _____ | Office Max | \$25 or \$100 | 5% | _____ | _____ |
| Brio | \$25 | 12% | _____ | _____ | Staples | \$25 or \$100 | 5% | _____ | _____ |
| Bruegger's Bagels | \$10 | 7% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Buffalo Wild Wings | \$10 or \$25 | 8% | _____ | _____ | Total # of Cards Ordered _____ | | | | |
| Burger King | \$10 | 4% | _____ | _____ | Total Amount of Order \$ _____ | | | | |
| Cheesecake Factory | \$25 | 5% | _____ | _____ | Name _____ | | | | |
| Chili's Grill & Bar | \$25 | 11% | _____ | _____ | Phone Number _____ | | | | |
| Chipotle Mexican Grill | \$10 | 10% | _____ | _____ | Email _____ | | | | |
| Chuck E. Cheese | \$10 | 8% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Cold Stone Creamery | \$10 | 8% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Cracker Barrel | \$10 or \$25 | 9% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |
| Denny's | \$10 | 7% | _____ | _____ | | | | | |

Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of March

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| Mar. 1 | Bessie Epstein Yehudi Lenzner | | Lillian Sierra |
| Mar. 2 | Fred Rubenstein | Mar. 19 | Belle Semack Barbara Brown |
| Mar. 3 | Lena Moslowitz Minnie Levitt Mollie Silver Michael Melton | Mar. 20 | Joseph Nichols |
| Mar. 4 | Louis Tonkonow Ruth Sugarman | Mar. 21 | Charles Pierson Dorothy E. Miller |
| Mar. 5 | Abraham Berson Ida Dina Arlook | Mar. 22 | Sidney Friedman |
| Mar. 6 | Sally Alderman | Mar. 23 | Abraham Goldstein Faye Lovett |
| Mar. 7 | Ida Cheerman | Mar. 24 | Gladys Rosenberg Harry Goldstein Rose Zellman |
| Mar. 11 | Jacob Gottlieb | Mar. 26 | Julius Levine |
| Mar. 12 | Isaac Grossman Bess Perry | Mar. 27 | Minnie White Fannie Levitch |
| Mar. 13 | Geraldine Turover Chester Trueheart Allan Kaye | Mar. 28 | Rose Israel |
| Mar. 16 | Nehuma Simonowsky | Mar. 29 | Anna Weinberg Beatrice Kolbin |
| Mar. 17 | Benjamin Daniels | Mar. 30 | Gertrude Wilder Doris Kaye |
| Mar. 18 | Anna Buchman | Mar. 31 | Charles Cohen Herman Angel |



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:

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Harriet Gunther** by Jan & Jay Weiss.
In Memory of **Harriet Gunther** by Jo Robin & Michael Gould.
In Memory of **Flora Shorr** by Shirley & Jay Brodach.

Sophie and Julius Barker Scholarship Fund

In Memory of **Harriet Gunther** by Shelley & Michael Barker.

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מזל טוב – Mazal Tov

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 Anniversary to our members celebrating an anniversary during the month of **March:**

- 4th - Anita & Martin Hillman
- 17th - Linda & Allen Caplan
- 25th - Phyllis & Bernie Frydenberg

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

- 5th - Matthew Arnold

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Note from Dallas DeFrancesco:

Dear TBA Family,

As I approach the one month mark on my Israeli experience, I am thrilled to share that I absolutely love what I am doing. My living situation is amazing. I live 5 minutes away from Sorona market in one of the nicest areas in Tel Aviv with a balcony view that will take your breath away. Check my Facebook page if you want to see pictures! In just a month I know the streets very well and have confidence when walking around. I have been able to make a lot of friends within the program, as well as having some really cool Israeli friends. I am starting to feel like a local especially with my Hebrew improving.

All the internships started 2/10, but I went to work the second day I was here. I wanted to prove my value to my co workers and have them understand the passion I have for what I am doing. Right away I was given a lot of responsibility. I have been working hands on with players between 8-18 years old. I have made some awesome friends and have already made an impact on some of the better prospects. Next week I start working with the Premier League where I will be coaching and playing on a team! Overall, the first month in Israel has been going better than I expected and I only see great things for my future.

Shalom!!
Dallas!!