



THE SCRIBE

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

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MERIDEN, CT 06450
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May, 2019

Nisan – Iyar 5779

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

The Israeli Election

Prime Minister Netanyahu won his fifth term in Israel's general election held a few weeks ago. I wanted to highlight a few interesting points that have resulted from his victory. In addition, it is interesting to note that of the 43 political parties certified to participate in the election, only 11 won seats in the Keneset. In order to be seated, a party must win 3.25% or more of the total votes cast. Reaching that threshold guarantees a party at least 4 seats. Also of interest is that over 68% of those eligible to vote actually voted, which puts us here in the United States to shame.

First, the Israeli electorate and the American Jewish electorate are more different than alike. American Jews, particularly young, liberal, American Jews primarily are interested in social justice. Israelis, particularly young Israelis, are interested in security first and then the economy. While older Americans tend to be more conservative, particularly with respect to defense issues, younger Israelis are more likely to believe that Israel is under existential attack from Hamas, Hizbala, Iran, etc.

Second, for all intents and purposes, there is no viable liberal political movement in Israel. Prior to the election of Menachem Begin in 1977, Israel's two liberal parties — Labor (HaAvoda) and Meretz — held 66 seats in the 120 member Keneset. After the new Keneset is seated, they will hold ten and they are losing seats with each new election. They have no platform which will attract voters, for whom security and the economy are paramount. A total of 71 seats will be held by Likud (36) and the new Blue and White (Kakhol Lavan) party (35), which is led by three former chiefs of staff of the Israeli Defense Force.

Third, while Israel's government is apparently moving rightward, which most commentators believe further exacerbates the gap between Israel and mainstream American Jews, Netanyahu could act to repair the gap if he chose to do so. There are two factors which might affect his decision — one, the prospect of a more critical Congress and the possibility that President Trump may not be re-elected; and second, age. Netanyahu will turn 70 this year and while he apparently is in good health, anything might happen and Likud has no successor with his political charisma. Netanyahu soon will have to think about his legacy, which will certainly include his relationship with the largest Jewish country outside of Israel. When his strong supporters in the United States — AIPAC, which criticized his deal with the far-right Kahanist party and ADL, which criticized his proposed West Bank annexation — didn't automatically defend his actions it was a sign that he cannot take unlimited American support for granted any longer.

All in all, it makes the next two to four years an interesting time.

Yom HaShoah

Yom HaShoah will be observed this year on Wednesday evening, May 1, at the Meriden Public Library, immediately following the dedication of the Temple B'nai Abraham World War II Holocaust Collection at the Library. Our friends and neighbors who experienced this horror and who performed acts of individual heroism are dwindling to a precious few. Please join us at the Library beginning at 6:15 for refreshments, the Dedication, and the Yom HaShoah service, where we will be honoring the next generation, with guest speaker, Cantor Deborah Katchko Gray, a student of Elie Weisel.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



May 12th

1 Wednesday
6:15 pm Dedication of the Temple B'nai Abraham World War II Holocaust Collection and Holocaust Remembrance and Yom HaShoah Observance - at Meriden Public Library

3 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

4 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

5 Sunday
11:00 am Fourpoints Sheraton on Research Parkway, Meriden to open ballots for the merger with Adath Israel.

9 Thursday
7:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

10 Friday
No Shabbat Evening Services here
5:30 pm Pray * Eat * Sing Services and Dinner at Adath Israel. RSVP 860-346-4709 by May 3.

11 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

17 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

18 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

23 Thursday
7:30 pm Board of Directors' Meeting



May 27th

24 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

25 Saturday
9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

31 Friday
6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services with Scholarships Awarded

רפואה שלימה
Wishing a Complete and Speedy recovery to:

Natalie Langner
Dr. Joseph Langner

Attorney E. Jack Shorr
of Counsel Ceneviva
Law Firm
721 Broad Street
Meriden, CT 06450
Tel: 203-238-3600
Fax: 203-235-6945
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May 1, 2019



**Dedication of the Temple B'nai Abraham
World War II Holocaust Collection
and
Holocaust Remembrance
Yom HaShoah Observance
at the Meriden Public Library**

Refreshments from 6:15 pm - 6:45 pm in the Cook Rm.

**Followed by the Dedication and Yom HaShoah
Observance in the Griffin Room**

Guest Speaker: Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

The Library is located at 105 Miller Street, Meriden

RSVP to Fred Zierler: fzierler@cox.net or 203-631-0567

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

To **Shirley and Jay Brodach** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Remi Maxwell Brodach**, born February 19, 2019.

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

1st - Larry Kirchheimer
7th - Michael Sperling
9th - Rick Grossman
11th - Cathy Burwick
12th - Marc Nemeth
12th - Rebecca Sheftel
15th - Ines Gerstenblatt
15th - Risa Zierler
18th - Roberta Ash
19th - Adrienne Palley
20th - Ken Steele
21st - Ruth Borsuk
21st - Ginny Kalmanowitz
27th - Michael Burwick
28th - Jean Lawrence
29th - Joan Goodman
30th - Shirley Brodach
31st - Susan Teller
31st - Bonnie Sperling

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

10th - Barry & Cyndi Sheftel
15th - Ben & Beth Eisner
25th - Howard & Julie Levine
26th - Jack & Audrey Acabchuk
29th - David & Joan Goodman

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

24th - Joshua Eisner

Sunday

May 5, 2019

11:00 am

Fourpoints Sheraton

on Research Parkway

**The Temple B'nai Abraham
Board of Directors
will be opening the
proxy ballot envelopes.**

**The result of this meeting
will indicate what direction
will be taken with the merger
with Adath Israel.**

**All Temple members are
invited to attend.**

With regret we inform you of the passing of:

Estelle Schupack

Mother of

Mark, Norman, Alan and Maxine

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.

May the Lord comfort and sustain
all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Dear TBA Family!

Wow a lot has happened this month! I will start with the rockets being launched towards Tel Aviv. That was a crazy experience to witness. When the rockets were first interrupted by the Iron Dome I was in the car with my cousin Yarden. Yarden actually works for the Iron Dome and casually told me that rockets were fired from Gaza towards Tel Aviv. My first reaction as you can understand was "Are we safe?". My cousin looked at me and said "Yeah, don't worry". I got out of the car and walked into my apartment. When I got into my apartment everyone was freaking out about the "attack". Minutes after the interruption of the rockets my program members went to the bomb shelter. Luckily, I have a good amount of IDF friends in different branches. I reached out to a few that I believe were involved more with being a warrior than others, and they told me not to worry. One of my friends said, "Go out and have a good time". This was a culture shock for me. At home, in Meriden, when it snows more than inch my mother shuts the house down and we cannot leave...lol!

Days after, I was still trying to fully understand what I witnessed. This is what I came up with, I was living in Tel Aviv under a Hamas rocket attack that was interrupted mid flight by the Iron Dome. That night Israel attacked them back and hit close to a 100 targets. I did not see them in real time, but from watching video of the rockets interruption I saw they were detonated over a building I can see from my balcony. With that said, I felt 100% safe yet a bit rattled! Life went on and I asked a friend why is it like that? They responded with, "If we mourn and talk..we give in..and then our enemies have an advantage". Besides the rockets, everything has been amazing. Baseball has been picking up and they use me all the time. The season has started and it's incredible that my life right now is working and playing baseball in Israel. I am the coach of my team and we are called the Rannan Raiders. Right now we are 2-2 and there is a game today 4/10/19 against Mizgav. I am on the mound and pumped to pitch! The weather has finally shifted to being beautiful and it makes each day so much sweeter.

Seeing the Grossman's a week ago was very nice and reminded me of home. The meal we had was the best yet and I was told by a local friend that the restaurant we went to is considered one of the best in Tel Aviv. We shared laughs and were able to catch up.

Lastly, Purim was balagan (chaotic in Hebrew). Exciting and so much fun!! This holiday seemed to never end. For five days straight in Tel Aviv people were dressed in some interesting costumes and partying in the streets. It was similar to Halloween, but being scared wasn't involved. Everything was just a celebration. It was very cool and am glad I get to take that off my bucket list.

All in all. Ani yofi ve hakol tov! (everything is wonderful)

Dallas

P.S.

I'm on the train home from my game. We won 5-2, I pitched all 7 innings, 0 walks, 4 H, 2 Errors, 10 K's.

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תודה רבה - THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

General Temple Fund

In Memory of **Stanley Stein** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

In Memory of **David Brown** by Bonnie & Michael Sperling.

Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of May

May. 1	Sylvia G. Wasserman Jack Stekloff Ze'ev Ben Dov		Charles Davidson Rose Nemeth Viola Jacobs		Joseph Goodman Louis Sigmond
May. 2	Rebecca O. Levitt Ida Levine Charles Bienstock	May. 12	Betty Ofshay Rebecca Greenberg Ida Bittman	May. 23	Dr. Mathias Borsuk Max Byer Steven Simon
May. 3	Carol Samuels Bess Levine	May. 13	Emil Blau William Jacobs Sylvia Trueheart	May. 24	Moses Frydenberg Elma Kaufman Aaron Nissenson Laura Levine
May. 4	Rose Kaplan Eire Gottlieb Sylvia Dressler Jacob Hubert Sarah (Sue) Fine	May. 14	Louis DeSarno Ethel Greenberg Jacob Gelfand Henry Port Edward Schwartz Max Gary Melton	May. 25	Brina Sheftel Bernard Levine Harry Roden Edward Rosenthal Zelig Telis Edythe Stein
May. 5	Blanche Davidson Howard Sheftel Jane Scavotto	May. 15	Hilda Sorman Rifka Dokshitski Rashka Dokshitski Harry Klamkin John B Nemeth	May. 26	Charles Weisser Frieda Arinofsky Samuel Jacobs Marilyn Michaelson Evelyn DeSarno
May. 6	Cantor Abram Brodach Edward Marcus Dorothy Budie Limon Diane Gerber	May. 16	Morris J. Taitz Charles Sundel Barry Cooper Archie Kaufman	May. 27	Abraham Peck Hella Friedlander Lili Lamm Herman Schwartz Zali Schwartz
May. 7	Louis Alderman Harry Krakower Max Katz	May. 17	Herbert Aron Sarah Tonkonow Katherine Bishins Samuel Kalmanowitz Charles Limon Harold Zimmerman	May. 28	Abraham Cherniack Hannah Buchholtz Aaron Kalmanowitz Dr. Daniel Kahn
May. 8	Bertha Orentlich Steven Jacobs Elsie Goodman Joseph Hasburg Aaron Dubrow	May. 18	Morris Rubenstein Abel Opinsky	May. 29	Joseph Miller Nathan Israel Nathan Grossman Marlene Linder Marjorie Croog
May. 9	Max Rischall Louis Katz Fanny Rovinsky Hattie Sigmond	May. 19	Eva Povlotsky Marcia Katz Young Hillel Telis Leib Telis Moishe Telis Kopel Telis	May. 30	William Hasburg
May. 10	Jack Teller Hyman Lovett Estelle L. Epstein	May. 20		May. 31	Dr. Zelly Ross
May. 11	Phyllis Katz Esther Friedman Ida Kosofsky Abraham Levine	May. 21			

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.

