



# THE SCRIBE

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

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June, 2019

Iyar - Sivan - 5779

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

## *L'hitra'ot*

It has been eleven years since I first met many of you on a weekend in the middle of June at the home of David and Debbie Kaye, where we enjoyed a lovely dinner on the grill, followed by a Friday evening service under the stars. I met more of you the next morning at Shabbat services, followed by Kiddush and my interview in the Library, and yet others on Sunday morning, when I led the morning Jewry Duty service. I still have many happy memories from the weekend; one that stands out was one of the questions during my interview: "Why do you want to be the Rabbi of this congregation?" My answer was: "I want to be the Rabbi of a congregation that I would be happy to join if I were not the rabbi."

I felt comfortable giving that answer, because those of you whom I had met that weekend had convinced me that Temple B'nai Abraham was a congregation I would have been happy to join as a member. After eleven years, that feeling has not changed. Those eleven years have gone by very quickly and I have been blessed to have shared so many important events in your lives: births, weddings, babies, b'nai mitzvot, and the passing of loved ones. Each one has been special and each has renewed my affection for this congregation and all you have given me.

As we all are aware, nothing lasts forever. Five years ago, I was privileged to have been asked to deliver the sermon on the Shabbat morning that my long time Rabbi, Gershom Barnard, was being honored before his retirement. He had served as his congregation's Rabbi for 39 years. I spoke on that day about the different paths that he and the congregation would follow in the future — paths that were at once both different and the same. I see a parallel here.

The path for Temple B'nai Abraham is a little more straightforward. It will become part of Congregation Adath Israel. Many of you will also be part of that new congregation. At that same time, my service as your Rabbi will end, but, I hope that the relationships I have had with you will continue on. One of the benefits of my retirement is that my new status will permit me to share meals and other social events with some of you that my status as your Rabbi prohibited.

Those of you who will be joining Congregation Adath Israel might be interested to know that I have been asked to act as its Interim Rabbi for the year 5780 on a part-time and very flexible basis. I have expressed interest in the offer and at present, details are still being worked out. Beyond that, I have no fixed plans for the future other than to spend more time with my family, more time to travel, more time to teach and learn, and, simply, more time.

I expect to maintain my residence in Meriden for the coming year. So, I am leaving, but not really. *L'hitra'ot*, which means see you later, rather than good-bye, is, I think, a most appropriate way for my tenure at Temple B'nai Abraham to conclude.

I wish all of you health, happiness and success in the coming years.

*L'hitrao'ot!*  
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



June 9 and 10

**1 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**2 Sunday**

**11:00 am** Annual Meeting and Brunch and College Scholarship Awards

**7 Friday**

**6:00 pm Pray\*Eat\*Sing at Adath Israel.**

RSVP to Joanna 860-346-4709 by May 31st. There will be no Shabbat Evening Services in Meriden

**8 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services  
Rabbi Kohn's last service here.

**9 Sunday**

**9:00 am** Shavuot Services at Adath Israel

**10 Monday**

**8:00 am** Shavuot Services with Yizkor recited at Adath Israel

**14 Friday**

No Evening Services

**15 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**21 Friday**

No Evening Services

**22 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services

**27 Thursday**

**7:30 pm** Board of Directors' Meeting

**28 Friday**

No Evening Services

**29 Saturday**

**9:30 am** Shabbat Morning Services



June 16

**Temple Annual Brunch and Meeting  
Presentation of College Scholarships**

**Sunday, June 2**

**11:00 am**

Reports from President, Rabbi Kohn, and Temple Committees

Vote to authorize the transfer of the cemetery to the Association of Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Hartford

RSVP to Temple office by May 29th

**Shavuot Services**

at Adath Israel in the Nester Center

**Saturday, June 8 - 7:30 pm -**

"Rainbow Torah"

Topics will include: LGBTQ and Issues in Judaism, Rainbows, and the Concept of Pride

**Sunday, June 9 - 9:00 am**

Shavuot Services

**Monday, June 10 - 8:00 am -**

Shavuot Services with Yizkor recited

## **From the President's Corner:**

Dear Members of Temple B'nai Abraham,

I want to let you know that as of this writing the merger between Temple B'nai Abraham and Congregation Adath Israel is almost complete. On May 5, 2019 at a Special Congregational Meeting the merger was approved. The vote was 111 Yes and 7 No (not returned). Congregation Adath Israel will have their vote to approve the merger on June 2, 2019 prior to our Annual Meeting.

I never expected that my second term would end in this manner, but I am proud at how we have come together to make sure there is a continuing legacy for Temple B'nai Abraham. The Aron Hakodesh, memorial plaques, and Holocaust Torah from Temple B'nai Abraham will find a home at Congregation Adath Israel. Our Holocaust books and materials will provide an ongoing legacy and educational resource as the Temple B'nai Abraham Holocaust Collection at the Meriden Public Library.

I need to recognize the incredible work done by Fred Zierler in spearheading the fantastic Gala celebration and the Temple B'nai Abraham Holocaust Collection at the Meriden Public Library. His love for the Temple, its history, and community are a shining example of involvement for all of us.

I can't thank Linda Caplan enough for her years of service as our Temple secretary and all the additional work that she has done outside of the hours and requirements of her job.

I wish to thank David Kaye and all the members of the Futures Committee for their tireless efforts in making this transition as smooth as possible.

I want to thank Ruth Borsuk and the Cemetery committee in their ongoing efforts on the Temple B'nai Abraham Cemetery and its transition to the Hartford Federation of Jewish Cemeteries.

I want to thank my executive board, secretary and co-treasurers. I wish to thank all standing committees and their chairs for their work for the Temple in Auxiliary, Cemetery, Chevra Kadisha, Education, Finance, House, Library, Long Range Planning, Membership, and Ritual. I also want to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their time and support.

I want to thank our "legal beagles", Lenny Cheerman, Bob Axelrod, and Rabbi Kohn, for their work and advice. They provided the Temple and me with necessary legal advice and opinions without charging in 6-minute increments.

I want to thank all those who came to services and supported our activities over the years.

Lastly, I want to thank Rabbi Michael G. Kohn for his 11 years of service as our Rabbi. He has been a shining example of dedication to Judaism, a friend, and an advisor.

Jay D. Weiss  
President  
Temple B'nai Abraham

Dear Temple Members,

As we move into the final days of Temple B'nai Abraham, I would like to take a few minutes to reminisce with you. In May 1995 I was hired to replace Marcia Cheikin upon her retirement. At that time Marcia told me she had been working at the Temple for 49 years - did I think I would break her record? Well, no I did not make it quite half of Marcia's time, but I never thought I would still be here 24 years later. Over the years I have worked with a number of rabbis - some more easily than others - but all provided a learning experience for me.

Soon after I started Ruth Borsuk was installed as President. She was followed by some very dedicated Temple members who stepped up to the position of leadership. A few even agreed to take second terms.

Over the years many of you followed the arrival and growth of our three granddaughters in the calendar. Time goes so quickly - Tobbi will be 16 this summer, Aviva turned 14 in April, and Chava will turn 10 this June. We will try to keep current pictures on us after we move to Adath Israel.

I would like to thank the two women who joined me in the office when I decided to reduce my work time (going semi-retired), Edie Simon followed by Naomi Kamins. Also thank you to the various custodians we have had. Whether weekday or weekend, these wonderful gentlemen went above and beyond to help me and help the Temple. We are so happy our current custodian, Julio Ramos, will be joining us by working at Adath Israel.

Thank you to all the friendly voices I have come to recognize over the years. I have learned to put a name and face to the voice. Most importantly, thank you to all the members I now consider good friends.

Allen and I look forward to seeing many of you at Adath Israel. For those not moving with us, best wishes and keep in touch. I will still be available until our door at 20 Lawrence Court is closed forever.

Linda

### **מזל טוב - Mazal Tov**

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

2nd - Deborah Katten  
4th - Michelle Grosman  
5th - Gerry Emple  
9th - Jon Palley  
10th - Paula Eisner  
10th - Roger Arnold  
12th - Shana Adams  
22nd - Sherwin Borsuk  
28th - Marge Kirchheimer

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

1st - Rita & Herb Bichunsky  
3rd - Linda & Rob Reger  
7th - Hollye & Larry Lew  
8th - Katrina & Bob Axelrod  
14th - Gladys & Marv Beloff  
14th - Jan & Jay Weiss  
25th - Dorothy & David Elkin  
28th - Risa & Fred Zierler

We apologize for missing -  
May 17th - Shana and Alyn Adams - 10 years

**Happy Birthday** to our next generation:

14th - Colby Turner  
21st - James Kendzierski

**City of Meriden**  
**Off of the Mayor**  
**"Days of Dedication and Remembrance"**  
**May 1 – 4, 2019**

**Whereas, Temple B'nai Abraham** has been a Jewish religious institution for the past 130 years in the City of Meriden, providing a house of worship and cultural and religious education programs for its congregants; and

**Whereas, Temple B'nai Abraham** has been an active part of the City of Meriden's cultural, social, and educational community during its extended tenure; and

**Whereas, Temple B'nai Abraham** wishes to maintain a substantive legacy in the city of Meriden for many years to come; and

**Whereas,** there has been a long and extremely personal bond between the congregants of Temple B'nai Abraham and the World War II Holocaust, congregants who have lost many family members during this period of genocide, and congregants who survived this horrendous ordeal; and

**Whereas,** the Temple wishes to help provide the Meriden community with an opportunity to learn about the causes and effects of the World War II Holocaust, so that history will not repeat itself; and

**Whereas,** the Temple has donated more than 250 books, DVDs and other media forms, and has established an endowment with Friends of the Meriden Public Library and also program seed money to be managed by the Friends for use by the Meriden Public Library, to provide for the Temple B'nai Abraham World War II Holocaust Collection; and

**Whereas,** this collection will be made available for the entire community to use, designed specifically to work in collaboration with Holocaust and Genocide Education in our school district; and

**Whereas,** the dedication of the Temple B'nai Abraham World War II Holocaust Collection at the Meriden Public Library is being conducted on the same night as the Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Remembrance Observance; and

**Now, therefore** I Kevin M. Scarpati, Mayor of the City of Meriden, do hereby proclaim the period of **May 1<sup>st</sup> - May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019** as "**Days of Dedication and Remembrance**" as we ask our community to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We also honor the survivors, rescuers and liberators who have dedicated themselves to promote human dignity, confront hatred and join millions of voices worldwide as we proudly proclaim Never Again!

**Presented this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2019 at the Meriden Public Library, Meriden, Connecticut.**

*Kevin M. Scarpati*  
**Kevin M. Scarpati**  
**Mayor**

**Speech at Dedication of Collection  
and Endowment  
to Meriden Public Library May 1, 2019**  
by, Natalie Cheerman

The idea for creating an endowment to fund the World War II Holocaust Collection here at the Meriden Public Library began about a year ago. Meriden has been a welcoming home to Temple B'nai Abraham for 130 years, with our members actively participating in all aspects of community life: commerce, education, healthcare, the law, government and this library.

Unfortunately, as with other houses of worship, over the past 30 years our membership has dwindled considerably and we no longer required our building that once was home to over 400 families. It was decided to sell our building and pursue merger with another synagogue.

As the saying goes, "when one door closes, another door opens." The door opened to give back to Meriden and establish an endowment to this library to enhance their educational offering for students and non-students on a subject that has deeply touched the Jewish community and the community at large—World War II and the Holocaust. Why do this now? We need to teach about this now, more than ever, because some of the same evil dynamics that fueled the Holocaust are alive today, right here in the USA and around the world.

One of the basic tenets of Nazism is racism. The Nazis identified the Jewish people as racial enemies and targeted them along with Gypsies, Jehovah Witnesses, homosexuals, and those with physical and mental limitations, as well as Christians who sympathized or attempted to protect these groups. But the end of World War II and the defeat of the Nazis did not end racism, bigotry, genocide, or other crimes against humanity. In fact, there has been a surge over the last several years of Anti-Semitic attacks around the world. In the USA alone, there has been a 57% increase in Anti-Semitic attacks and demonstrations, as we have seen in Charlottesville, Pittsburgh and only a few days ago in California. Shockingly, today we come

face to face with the same horrific symbols, verbiage, and ideology that erupted in WWI Germany, and the subsequent murders of people who gathered for prayer in their houses of worship.

Hatred, one of the root causes of Anti-Semitism has also fueled bigoted attacks on mosques and churches. And genocide, the most extreme version of racism continues around the world, against Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the '90s, and today in Myanmar, against the Rohingya Muslims, as well as genocide in Sudan, Syria, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.

Hatred, bigotry, racism Anti-Semitism are not living below the surface. They are in our faces every day. In order to counteract these destructive forces and prevent the marginalization of people and crimes against humanity, we need to do our part to educate our community. That is the purpose of this endowment. By providing the endowment of the WWII Holocaust Collection, Temple B'nai Abraham is fulfilling an obligation of Judaism, Tikkun Olam, which in Hebrew means "repairing the world" by performing acts of kindness and generosity. Through this gift, we hope to support anti-bias education through a better understanding of the Holocaust, so that it will never be forgotten AND never happen again.

## **SUPPORTING THE ENDOWMENT**

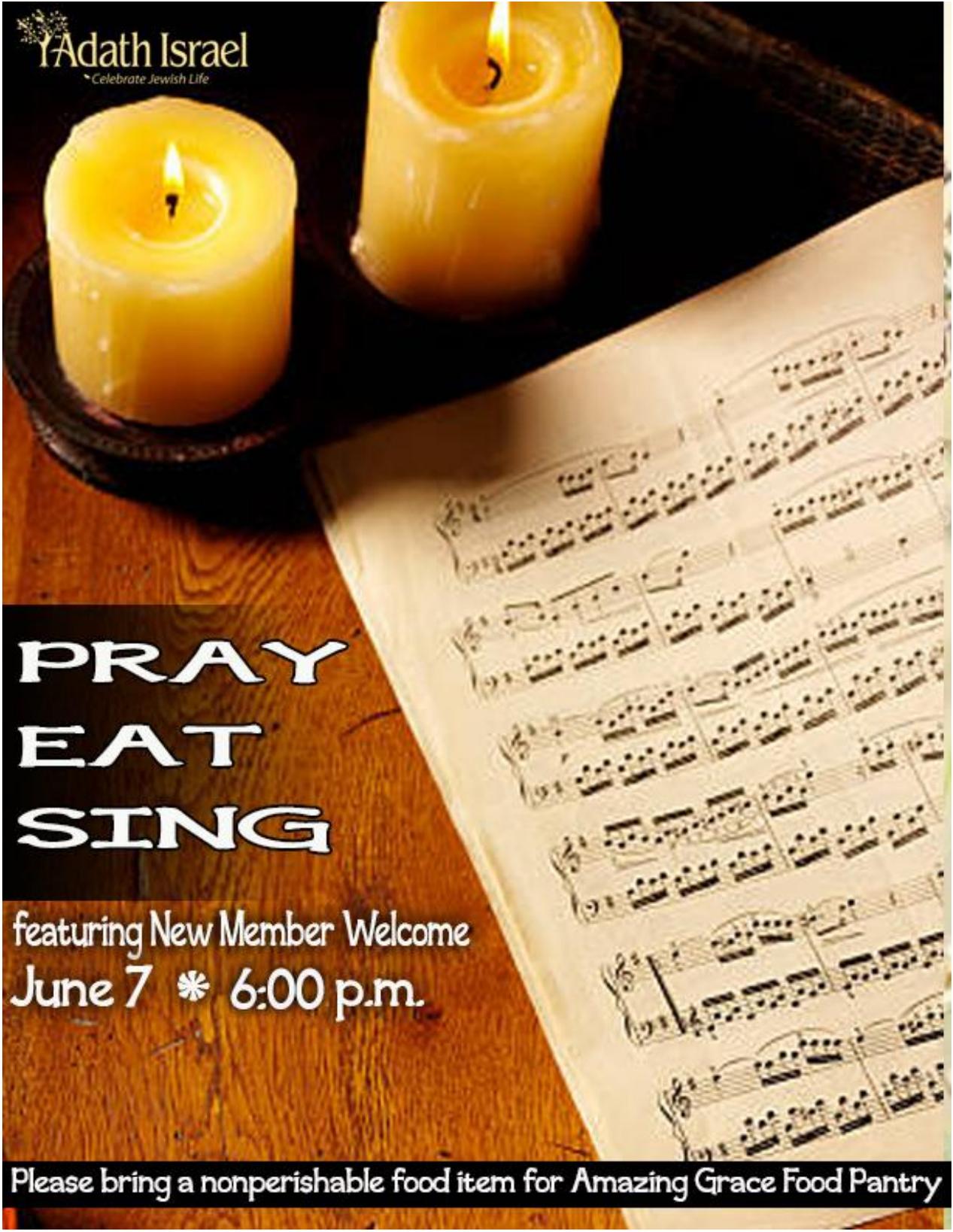
Any individual, business, or organization  
desiring to support  
the Temple B'nai Abraham World War II  
endowment  
may make a tax deductible contribution to:

*Friends of the Meriden Public Library  
a 501 (c) (3) organization*

*Memo: Temple B'nai Abraham Holocaust  
Endowment*



Adath Israel  
Celebrate Jewish Life



**PRAY  
EAT  
SING**

featuring New Member Welcome  
June 7 \* 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a nonperishable food item for Amazing Grace Food Pantry

RSVP to Joanna at 860-346-4709 by May 31st.

# 2019 SHAVUOT \*CELEBRATION\*

Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot -  
Shavuot Evening Study

*"Rainbow Torah"*

**Date: Saturday, June 8**

**Time: 7:30-?**

**Place: Nester Center**

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**Children are invited to bring a sleeping bag.**

In honor of Middletown's Pride Parade & Festival our topics will include: LGBTQ+ Issues in Judaism, Rainbows, and the Concept of Pride. Please contact the office if you would like to share and/or attend.

For More info: [www.adathisraelct.org](http://www.adathisraelct.org)

Check page 2 for the schedule of all Shavuot Services.

## Yahrzeits Observed During the Month of June

June. 1	Anna Levine Louis Shatsky Samuel Friedman Louis Schwartz		Moses Berliner David Silverman		Sadie Elkin Elizabeth G. Pollack
		June. 14	Pauline Bishinsky Jennie Bishinsky		Reuben Buchman Benjamin Kolbin
June. 2	Estelle Kosofsky Henry Antin	June. 15	Leah Gerstenblatt Manny Schwartz	June. 23	Fred Snyder Moe Bishinsky Sidney Statlender
June. 3	Rose T. White Gail Lee Burwick Perry Krentzman	June. 16	Sonya Gittleman Helen Mekies		Mollie Weisser Faye Feldshon
June. 4	Ida Friedman Ruth Zuckerman	June. 17	Saul Leades Jennie Strauss	June. 24	Sarah Denoff Edward Friedman
June. 5	Mollie Zwillinger		Sarah Risen Wallace Sadowsky	June. 25	Julius Siegel Samuel White Ida Levine
June. 6	Sarah Hyman Irving Parmett Albert Schwartz Ira Cohen	June. 18	Gertrude Gelfand Rena Berliner	June. 26	Barney Ofshay Esther Rubin Henry Dobris Rose Dressler Michelle Telis Sarah Rachel Telis
June. 7	Rose Gerstenblatt	June. 19	Jennie Berson Samuel Gross Katherine Johnson Annette Ross Harry Levine	June. 27	Abraham Becker Esther Fox Burg
June. 8	Harry Gold		Betty Lenzner Lillian Silverstein Adolph Goldberg Mary Fox	June. 28	Jean Silverman George Small Martin Petroff
June. 9	Abraham Gerber Harriett Grossman Rudolph Pick Shalom Dokshitski	June. 20	Carrie Silverstein Benjamin Beloff Hermann Blatt Nathan Perlin Alice Hirsch	June. 29	Lauretta Petroff David Limon Sarah Cohen Tillie Resident
June. 10	Benjamin Seligman Mitzi Blau Marvin Kosofsky	June. 21	Hyman Cohen Rochmall Klamkin	June. 30	Max Resident
June. 11	James Fightlin Rose Silverman				
June. 12	Boroch J. White Esther Goff				
June. 13	Bithja Dressler Ezak Sklar Anna H. Cherniack Joseph Pierson				



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:**

**Ida Kosofsky** by Jane Weisberg

**Eva Povlotsky** by Richard A. Katz

**Evelyn DeSarno** by Jayne Papoosha

**Louis DeSarno** by Jayne Papoosha

**Marjorie Croog** by Susan Croog

**Sylvia Trueheart** by Hilda Trueheart

**Cantor Abram Brodach** by Jay & Shirley  
Brodach

### **General Temple Fund**

In Memory of **Julio Ramos Jr.** by Susan Croog.

### **Cemetery Fund**

For repairs of gravestones or markers by the  
Temple B'nai Abraham Chevra Kadisha.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In Memory of **Estelle Schupack** by Alan  
Schupack.

## **Attorney E. Jack Shorr**

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Dear All,

My time in Israel is coming to an end. I can't believe it's almost been 6 months. I feel like I was just packing my bags and getting dropped off at the airport. The last few weeks there has been a lot of commotion due to attacks, events, and holidays. Yet the people of Israel never give up!

A few weeks ago I took a trip with my friends to Eilat. I was amazed at how beautiful the beaches and scenery are. We took a boat cruise on the Red Sea which was absolutely amazing. Waking up on our last day we were told that we needed to go home earlier than expected because Hamas fired over 500 rockets that night into Israel.

A few days later I traveled to Latrun where I watched an event for Yom HaZikaron which is Memorial Day in Israel. Listening to the stories of the parents who lost their loved ones in terrorist attacks and war was devastating. It brought tears to my eyes and made me truly miss my family. It also made me realize how lucky we are in the U.S. that we don't have mandatory military time. It was a very sad day in Israel and was noticeable everywhere I went.

The night after though it turned to Yom Ha'atzmaut which is Independence Day in Israel. The streets flooded with people wearing blue and white while chanting songs and dancing. It was very electric and was amazing to be part of. During my time in Israel I believe my favorite holiday so far is Independence Day because you could truly feel the love people have for the land and country of Israel.

I was also lucky enough to see EuroVision here in Israel which is basically the European version of American Idol.

As much as I am looking forward to coming home on June 15th, I am sad to leave Israel, my friends and my family here. Bittersweet...YES! And AMAZING! Lucky to have had this experience and to be able to share it with my TBA family!

In Love with Israel and Judaism...thank you  
TBA, Dallas