



THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham
Now Celebrating its 122nd Year
Affiliated with The United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism

127 EAST MAIN STREET
MERIDEN, CT 06450
203-235-2581 FAX 203-235-2582

June, 2011 Iyar – Sivan 5771

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Transitions

Synagogue life, as is true with life in general, is constantly changing. This past year we lost several valuable members of our congregation. And this month we will have a new slate of Officers and Directors, as Deborah Katten turns over the presidency to Jo Robin Gould. Soon, Temple B'nai Abraham will be commencing its 123rd year of existence and looking back, we can see that many significant changes have occurred during that time — we presently are in our third synagogue building (our current building has served us for 59 years); women count in our *minyanim*, lead services and read from the *Torah* and chant *Haftarah*; we have an interactive website; yet, we neither are as large, nor as young, a congregation as we were only one generation ago (as a result, service attendance and religious school enrollment are down); and our endowment income, due to the recession, is not as great as it once had been.

We, at Temple B'nai Abraham, are not unique in this regard. The United Synagogue has set up a ListServ for congregations of our size (under 200 membership units) to exchange ideas and many of those congregations have reported similar, if not identical, changes. Here at Temple B'nai Abraham, there are two committees actively looking for ways to more efficiently use our resources and to increase our endowments. But they cannot do it alone.

Soon, you will be contacted by one of those committees to participate in a "parlor meeting" and / or a survey. It is important for us to learn what brings you to the synagogue and, yes, what keeps you away. And just as important, we need to know what will YOU do to help Temple B'nai Abraham move forward into the future as we approach our 125th anniversary. Please attend one of those meetings and respond fully to the survey. That is the only way that YOUR vision of our future will be heard.

Small School Consortium

On May 15, Temple B'nai Abraham hosted a *Yom Ha'atzma'ut* (Israel Independence Day) celebration with our Religious School children and families and those from Adath Israel in Middletown and Beth Israel in Wallingford. With help from many of our parents, as well as faculty and other members, this day was a big success. We are beginning to forge a relationship with both of these congregations for the benefit of our children as their numbers shrink. Next year we hope to have several joint programs with each of these congregational schools.

Israel Trip

As part of the *Yom Ha'atzma'ut* program, Rabbi Haaz, from Adath Israel, made a presentation on the family trip to Israel that his congregation is planning. They have invited us, as well as Congregation Beth Sholom Rodfe Zedek, a Reform congregation in Chester, to be part of that trip should we wish. The three possible dates for the trip are in April (after Passover), June (after school is out) and late December, 2012. Several of our members who attended the program (as well as the Rabbi) indicated an interest in the trip. We will be arranging a meeting here at the Temple for all who might have interest. The specific trip itinerary and date will depend on the wishes of those who are willing to commit to the trip. I hope many of you will consider this opportunity.

b'Shalom,

Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



CALENDAR EVENTS JUNE 2011

2 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

6:30 PM Hadassah Dinner and "Person of Honor"

3 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

4 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

5 Sunday

10:15 AM Education Meeting

11 AM – 4 PM Hadassah Gold Sale

7 Tuesday

8:00 PM Tikkun Leil Shavuot

8 Wednesday

9:30 AM Shavuot Services

9 Thursday

9:30 AM Shavuot Services with Yizkor recited

10 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening services

11 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

12 Sunday

10:30 AM Annual Temple Brunch and Meeting

16 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:00 PM Ritual Meeting

17 Friday

7:00 PM International Congregational Dinner

7:45 PM Family Shabbat Services – followed by dessert and the Awards presentation

18 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

20 Monday

7:30 PM Hadassah Board Meeting for new and past Board members

23 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting for past and new Board members

24 Friday

No Friday Evening Services this week

25 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

TEMPLE BLOOD DRIVE

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH – 1 – 6:30 pm



From the President's Corner:

Shalom,

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". I am borrowing the famous quote to describe the last two years, which includes my term as president of Temple B'nai Abraham. It was the best of times, because I have learned new things, and that is always beneficial. I have learned (some) about how the Temple runs and what it is like to serve on a board of directors for a small non-profit organization. I have seen how hard the same small groups of people work to keep things going, whether it is service attendance and participation, Temple social activities, the school and youth activities or who come to minyan and educational events. Rabbi spoke at the High Holidays of his hopes for more participation from those we don't normally see (except for the High Holidays) and I believe this has gotten off to a slow start but a start nonetheless. My admiration and appreciation for the professional, educational and office staff, my fellow board members and committee chairs has grown a thousand-fold because I could not have accomplished anything the past two years without their help and support. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

I took on the role of president at the same time my husband received a brain cancer diagnosis and had surgery – this accounts for the worst of times part of the quote. He insisted I not change the plan because of his illness and subsequent treatment courses. I needed help and it was there for me – again, best of times. I relied heavily on guidance from my experienced predecessors and help from my executive committee and the board of directors. I took to heart one of Rabbi's sermons about Moses being counseled by his father-in-law to take help from others and not to try to do it all himself, because I could not. We as a group have managed to renew the Rabbi's contract, find a new chairperson for the Ritual Committee, revise the Temple by-laws and have a website up and running. We have maintained an aging building. Our plans for getting your thoughts as members by having parlor meetings to see what you expect of the temple and how you see us structured in the future are slowly

moving forward. The Long Range Planning Committee is doing the same with regard to our financial future. When invited to join one of these meetings please attend and give voice to what you are thinking. We need to know how you see the Temple in future years.

I did not get as much done as I had hoped – part of my nature is to expect too much from myself anyway, and under the circumstances it was probably not reasonable! Coping with becoming a widow, and personal health issues make it unwise to do as others have done and try for more than one term as president in hopes of getting more done. I hope to be a good ex-officio for our very capable incoming president. I have every confidence that we will be strong as a community under new leadership and good things will continue to happen.

Warmest Regards and Many Thanks,
Deborah Katten



Shavuot Services

Tuesday – June 7th

8:00 PM

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Wednesday – June 8th

9:30 AM

Shavuot Services

Thursday – June 9th

9:30 AM

Shavuot Services with Yizkor recited

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

To **Laurie and Roger Arnold** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Griffin** on Saturday, July 9th. The Arnold family invites the congregation to join them as they celebrate their *simcha*.



To **Marianne Smith** on the engagement of her granddaughter **Sarah Firshein** to **Eric Gillin**.

To **Rabbi Dana Bogatz** on being elected President of the New Haven Board of Rabbis.

Happy Anniversary to our couples 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 (Mike) & Marvin Beloff
- 14th – Janice & Jay Weiss
- 14th – Eleanor & Al Lowell
- 16th – Edith & Paul Baron
- 16th – Wanda & Samuel Rieger
- 18th – Saralee & Ronald Messinger
- 22nd – Flora & Sanford Shorr
- 23rd – Valerie & Bernie Klein
- 25th – Dottie & David Elkin
- 26th – Kathie & Jon Harris
- 28th – Risa & Fred Zierler
- 29th – Meredith & Tony Ieraci
- 29th – Barbara & David Brown
- 30th – Ally & Robert Miller

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

- 2nd – Deb Katten
- 4th – Michelle Grossman
- 5th – Gerry Emple
- 7th – Michael Gould
- 9th – Jon Palley
- 10th – Paula Eisner

- 10th – Roger Arnold
- 12th – Shana Adams
- 14th – David Grossman
- 14th – Jon Harris
- 18th – Al Lowell
- 18th – Barbara Rubin
- 21st – Marge DeMaio
- 22nd – Sherwin Borsuk
- 22nd – Jack Navon
- 22nd – Bernice Friedman
- 24th – Debbie DeSenti
- 28th – Marge Kirchheimer
- 30th – Jack Winkleman
- 30th – Marilyn Steiner

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

- 4th – Jenna Blocher
- 10th – Benjamin Axelrod
- 10th – Gabriella Miller
- 14th – Colby Joseph turner
- 17th – Mollie Steele
- 21st – James Kendzierski

Hadassah News:

Just a reminder: on Thursday, June 2nd, Hadassah will be honoring Fred Zierler for all of the work which he has done over the years, for the Meriden-Wallingford chapter of Hadassah. If you have not made your reservation as yet, please do so now by calling Janice Weiss at 203-237-0200. The celebration will be held at the home of Natalie and Lenny Cheerman and will begin with a wonderful dinner. Also on that evening the members of the Board will be installed. Checks for the dinner or donations in Fred's honor should be sent to Janice Weiss at 132 Pembroke Court, Meriden, CT 06450. All checks should be made out to Hadassah.

We are now coming to the half way point of the Centennial Celebration of Hadassah. If you have not already upgraded your Annual Membership to a Life Membership, now is the time to do so. Now is also the time to make your daughter, daughter-in-law, son, niece or friend a member. Please call Linda at 203-235-2581 and request an application for Life Membership. The special price of only \$100 is good until December 31, 2011. Don't wait until the last minute. Make that call today.

Auxiliary News:

Your mail will soon be bringing you a thick envelope. Inside you will find the forms for the coming year:

- Calendar (birthdays and anniversaries)
- New Year's Greetings
- Yizkor Book
- Auxiliary Membership
- Ads or Family picture specials

The monies raised by these projects are used during the year to pay for refreshments following services on Friday night, refreshments on Simchat Torah and Purim, and to subsidize our Erev Rosh HaShanah dinner. The money also helps to subsidize some of the activities held during the year.

This year we are offering a new special – for an additional \$100 your business ad will appear in each issue of the Temple newsletter. This ad would be the size of a business card, and would appear a minimum of 10 times in the year.

How about putting in you child's or grandchild's picture on the month of their birthday or Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Children love to see their picture in something special and knowing that everyone gets to see them is exciting.

We note with sorrow the passing of:

Frank Schupack

Husband of Estelle Schupack

Uncle of Joe Fine

Dorothy "Budie" Limon

Mother of Abby Cerrotti

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.

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

מזל טוב

Wishing a Speedy and Complete Recovery to:


Estelle Limon

My Bar Mitzvah Project:

My name is Griffin Arnold. On July 9, 2011, I will have the honor of celebrating my Bar Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Abraham.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I have chosen to help Meriden's homeless shelter. In the past few years, many more people are out of work and have lost their homes. I am fortunate that my family has a nice home. I learned that there are kids in my school who have recently lost their homes. The homeless shelter desperately needs help. They can use the following donations:

All forms of Toiletries are needed:

Bars of soap 
Shampoos and Deodorant

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste 

Pillows and Pillow cases 

Every person in our community deserves the chance to live in a home. Temple B'nai Abraham has become a second home to me.

Please bring your donations to the Temple or call me at (203) 639-1571 and I will make arrangements for pick up.

Thank you!
Griffin Arnold

Please be advised: Beginning on June 24th and going through August 19th, there will be NO Friday Evening Services, EXCEPT on July 8th (the night before Griffin Arnold's Bar Mitzvah). If you would like to request a Friday evening service for a Yahrzeit, you need to call the Temple office by the previous Wednesday. Friday Evening Services will resume Aug. 26th with Shabbat Under the Stars. Watch for the summer issue of the Scribe for more information on this event.

Sunday, June 12th

Annual Temple Meeting and Brunch

10:30 AM

**Vote on the budget for the coming year
Vote on the new Officers and Directors for the Board
Learn who will be the Temple “Person of the Year”**

Please watch your mail for the official mailing.

**Call the Temple office by Monday, June 6th and let us know you
are planning on attending.**

This is a very important meeting for ALL Temple members.

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Friday, June 17th

Join us as we honor our next generation.

**College scholarships from the Temple and Federation will be
presented. School awards will also be given out.**

**The evening will begin at 7:00 with our International Dinner.
The Family Shabbat Services will follow the dinner at 7:45 PM.
Our evening will end with dessert, coffee and our presentations.**

The dinner flyer is on the following page.



3rd Shabbat Around the World Dinner

Friday, June 17, 2011

**7:00 PM will be the International Dinner
7:45 PM Family Shabbat Services
followed by dessert, coffee and the awards.**

Traditional Greek Dairy Shabbat Dinner
**Featuring: Appetizers, salad, soup, entrée
and delicious Greek Desserts**

**Prepared in our kitchen by Rabbi Kohn
and many friends of the kitchen!**

Be a part of what promises to be a tastefully pleasant evening.

**Reservations a must – Please return this form to
the Temple by Sunday, June 12th.**

***** Guests are encouraged to attend!**

Greek Dairy Shabbat Dinner Reservation

Family Name _____

_____ **Adults @ \$12.00** \$ _____

_____ **Children of Religious School Age (4 and up) @ \$8** \$ _____

_____ **Children under 4 Free**

It's a Gold & Silver Party!!

Held to benefit the extraordinary work of Hadassah

Clean out your jewelry box, sideboard or attic and trade it for some \$\$\$

Bring all forms of gold, silver or platinum to be professionally purchased by Becker's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry.

You will be paid top dollar for your unwanted gold and silver jewelry. This could be your broken bracelets and chains, half pairs of earrings, old class rings, outdated items or jewelry that you never wear. Becker's will also buy sterling silver flatware, hollow-ware, gold and silver coins, platinum and diamonds ½ carat or larger.

Sunday, June 5, 2011 – 11 am - 4 pm

***Becker's Satellite Gold Buying Location
809 North Colony Road, Wallingford, CT
ACROSS FROM WALMART***

Refreshments will be served

*Highest Prices Paid

*Dealer check will be dispersed to you at the party

*Be sure to bring a photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc)



For additional information, contact Debbie Kaye at (203) 269-0476

Yahrzeits in the Month of June

1-Jun	Henry Antin		Jennie Bishinsky		Elizabeth G. Pollack
2-Jun	Rose T. White	14-Jun	Leah Gerstenblatt		Reuben Buchman
	Gail Lee Burwick		Manny Schwartz		Benjamin Kolbin
3-Jun	Ida Friedman		Julius Goldberg	22-Jun	Fred Snyder
4-Jun	Susan Miller	15-Jun	Sonya Gittleman		Moe Bishinsky
	Mollie Zwillinger		Helen Mekies		Sidney Statlender
5-Jun	Sarah Hyman		Louis Levine		Mollie Weisser
	Irving Parmett	16-Jun	Saul Leades		Faye Feldshon
	Albert Schwartz		Jennie Strauss	23-Jun	Sarah Denoff
6-Jun	Rose Gerstenblatt		Sarah Risen	24-Jun	Julius Siegel
7-Jun	Harry Gold		Wallace Sadowsky		Samuel White
	Abraham Gerber		Melanie Rieger		Ida Levine
8-Jun	Harriett Grossman	17-Jun	Gertrude Gelfand		Morris Jacobson
	Rudolph Pick	18-Jun	Jennie Berson	25-Jun	Barney Ofshay
	Shalom Dokshitski		Samuel Gross		Esther Rubin
9-Jun	Benjamin Seligman		Katherine Johnson		Rose Dressler
	Mitzi Blau		Annette Ross		Michelle Telis
	Marvin Kosofsky		Harry Levine		Sarah Rachel Telis
	Abraham Rieger	19-Jun	Betty Lenzner	26-Jun	Abraham Becker
10-Jun	James Fightlin		Lillian Silverstein		Esther Fox Burg
	Rose Silverman		Adolph Goldberg	27-Jun	Jean Silverman
	Lena Rovinsky		Mary Fox		George Small
11-Jun	Boroch J. White		Naomi Katz		Martin Petroff
	Esther Goff	20-Jun	Carrie Silverstein	28-Jun	Lauretta Petroff
12-Jun	Bithja Dressler		Benjamin Beloff		David Limon
	Ezak Sklar		Hermann Blatt		Sarah Cohen
	Anna H. Cherniack		Nathan Perlin		Tillie Resident
	Joseph Pierson		Alice Hirsch	29-Jun	Max Resident
	Moses Berliner	21-Jun	Hyman Cohen		Edward Rosenbluth
	David Silverman		Rochmall Klamkin		
13-Jun	Pauline Bishinsky		Sadie Elkin		

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:

Marjorie Croog by Susan Croog
Marvin Kaplan by Harriet Meisel
Betty Filler by Yakov & Raisa Filler
Sarah Gelmadin by Yakov & Raisa Filler
Louis & Evelyn DeSarno by Jayne Papoosha
Zelig Telis by Esther Telis
The Zelig Telis Family by Esther Telis
The Esther Telis Family by Esther Telis
Cantor Abram Brodach by Jay Brodach
Cantor Abram Brodach by Sylvia Brodach
Sylvia Trueheart by Hilda Trueheart

General Temple Fund

Get Well Wishes to **Howard Koenig** by Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk.
In Memory of **Sam & Regina Navon** by Jack Navon.
In Memory of **Frank Schupack** by Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt.
In Appreciation from Beth and Ben Birenbaum.
Get Well Wishes to **Deb Katten** by Helene & Howard Koenig.
In Gratitude of **Deb Katten** by Susan Malo and Bruce Peck.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Appreciation of **Rabbi Kohn** by Alan Schupack and family.

Barry Koslow Torah Fund

In Memory of **Frank Schupack** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.
In Memory of **Barry Koslow** by Joan & David Goodman & family.
Get Well Wishes to **Debby Marcus** by Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk.
In Memory of **Evelyn Shapiro** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.
In Honor of **Fred Zierler** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.
In Memory of **Aaron (Art) Dubrow** by Fran Dubrow.
In Memory of **Hyman Silver** by Fran Dubrow.
In Memory of **Budie Limon** by Marge & Julius Kirchheimer.
Get Well Wishes to **Deb Katten** by Marge & Julius Kirchheimer.

Cemetery Fund

In Memory of **Frank Schupack** by Ruth & Sherwin Borsuk.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

In Honor of **Rhoda Burwick**, on her milestone birthday, by Risa & Fred Zierler.
In Memory of **Budie Limon** by Dottie & David Elkin.
In Honor of **Fred Zierler** by Phyllis & Bernie Frydenberg.

Gary I. Limon Memorial Book Fund

The following donations were made In Memory of Budie Limon by:

Muriel Berson
Rhoda Burwick
Jan & Jay Weiss
Ruth Kahn
Phyllis & Herman Sochin
Estelle Kosofsky and family (2 cards)
Flora & Sanford Shorr
Rhoda Hurwitz
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Andrews
Rosalind & Bob Nevola
Flora Goldstein
Suzy & Steve Goldberg, Jason, Lisa & Austin Ricker
Rose Marie & Joseph Rebeschi
Bonnie & Michael Sperling
Norman Rashba
Debbie & Edward DeSenti
Pauline Cerrotti
Sharon & Leonard Jacobs
Cindy, Phil, Jeremy & Melissa Rischall
Selma & Joe Young
Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt
Glenda & H. Robert Grossman
Susie Walker

Get Well Wishes to **Estelle Limon** by Estelle Kosofsky and family.

Paul Levine Cemetery Fund

In Memory of **Budie Limon** by Dottie Levine.
In Memory of **Lucy Popolaido** by Rhoda Burwick.

William Smith Memorial Fund

In Memory of **Budie Limon** by Marianne Smith.

