



THE SCRIBE

Monthly Newsletter of Temple B'nai Abraham
Now Celebrating its 123rd Year
Affiliated with The United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism

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December, 2011 Kislev – Tevet 5772

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat Weekend

On the weekend of December 9-11, Temple B'nai Abraham will be presenting a special series of educational programs on "Women in the Bible". Rabbi Jill Hammer, Director of Spirituality at the Academy for Jewish Religion will be our Scholar. She will present four programs: 1st on Friday evening at services following our Congregational dinner; at a Lunch and Learn following our *Shabbat* morning service; a *Havdalah* program at the home of Jo Robin and Michael Gould; and at a Bagel Brunch on Sunday morning following our morning *minyan*. We will learn about four different Biblical women, through ancient and modern *midrash* (rabbinic tales that flesh out the Biblical text): Dinah's daughter; Serach bat Asher; the matriarch Sarah, as the first candle lighter; and Lot's wife. Rabbi Hammer is a creative and inspirational teacher and I know you will enjoy her presentations.

Hanukkah

Two years ago, when I first met with the Hebrew School children, I asked them what was their favorite Jewish holiday and the answer was unanimous: "*Hanukkah*". *Hanukkah* begins this year on the evening of December 20. Our Religious School children had an early taste of the holiday at the Small Congregation Consortium program which was all about miracles. The Annual Latke party will take place at the synagogue on December 18, with activities and, of course, latkes.

Travels

I recently attended a conference in New York on what Jewish synagogues can learn from our non-Jewish neighbors. While I will have more to say about this in the coming months, two things stood out. First, even in the non-Jewish world, the moderate center is disappearing, with the poles gaining strength. This parallels what we are seeing with the Conservative movement. And second, the most successful congregations and programs are those which expect more – not less – from their members and participants. By the time you receive this, I will be at the biennial USCJ Kallah, which this year is focused almost exclusively on prayer. I have been asked to lead one of the Sunday morning services. I will report back my initial thoughts on this meeting in the next Scribe.

Traveling to Israel

As some of you are aware, members of congregation Adath Israel in Middletown will be going on a trip to Israel in December 2012. We have been invited to join that trip and some of you expressed interest. If any of you are interested, please contact me for the latest information. In addition, several of my colleagues from the Academy for Jewish Religion have put together a multi-congregational trip from July 1-12, 2012. I am considering joining that trip and if anyone is interested in that trip, please contact me for the details. We are hoping to get our deposits in by December 31.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael Kohn



**CALENDAR EVENTS
DECEMBER 2011**

1 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

2 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

3 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

9:45 AM Jr. Congregation

4 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

6 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

7:30 PM House Committee Meeting

8 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

9 Friday

6:30 PM Congregational Dinner

7:30 PM Family Shabbat Services

10 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Hammer

Havdalah Services and dessert (time to be announced) at the home of Jo Robin and Michael Gould

11 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

9:30 – 12:30 Gift Shop Sale

10:30 AM Breakfast & talk with Rabbi Hammer

13 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

15 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Ritual Committee Meeting

16 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

17 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

18 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

9:30 – 12:30 Gift Shop Sale

20 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

22 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Board of Directors' Meeting

23 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

24 Saturday

9:30 AM Morning Minyan

25 Sunday

No Religious School

No Jewry Duty

27 Tuesday

No Religious School

29 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

30 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

31 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

From the President's Corner:

These past few months have flown by and we have had so many wonderful services and celebrations. I am forever grateful and indebted to my "go-to" members who are always there for the synagogue, and have supported me in fulfilling my duties as president of this congregation. Our volunteers work tirelessly on every task they take on and their commitment is "above and beyond."

Everyone in this congregation is a leader in some way. We are all role models in some form, to each other and to our children. We need each and every one of you to make this congregation work.

A number of congregants shared the responsibilities of leading services, reading from the Torah and chanting Haftorah. It is essential that each person is able to participate to the level he or she desires and that no one feels relegated to being only an observer.

During this past Shabbat I watched as several generations of congregants came to the bimah. I was amazed with the comfort and skill that our youth demonstrated in reading Torah, chanting Haftorah, and leading us in prayer. It is a true testament to our Rabbi's, teachers', elders' and parents' commitment. Our youth's ability to lead services helps to guarantee future lay leaders for our synagogue continuance.

Please make every effort to help, but more importantly, participate! Come to services, venture out of your usual routine and attend an activity that you may not have thought of attending in the past.

Best wishes for the coming holidays and I look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Jo Robin Gould

Auxiliary News:

On Sunday, the 6th of November we held our annual Hayride. We had warm weather, beautiful foliage and all participants enjoyed the hayless hayride, apple picking and delicious apple donut holes and cider. We had an extra attraction when super heroes, princesses and other characters entertained us as we traveled through the fields. It was a wonderful way to appreciate Mother-Nature again, after our dissatisfaction with Storm Alfred and his aftermath.

I would like to thank the following temple members who helped to put up/take down the sukkah this year. They were: Roy and Karissa Massicott, Allen and Linda Caplan, Howard Koenig, Mark Nemeth, Julia Kendzierski, Shari Turner and Joanie Goodman. An additional thank you to all the Hebrew school children and their teachers, who did such a wonderful job decorating our temple sukkah.

Chanukah is coming. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your holiday shopping done early at our Annual Chanukah Gift Fair. The Gift Fair will be open on Tuesdays, December 13th and 20th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm and Sundays, December 11th and 18th from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm for your convenience. Special arrangements can be made to view our holiday merchandise by contacting the temple office. We have many new items to offer, so come visit us for your holiday purchases!!!! Also don't forget to join us for The Latke Party on Sunday, December 18th.

Looking forward to enjoying Auxiliary programs with you,

Susan Massicott
Auxiliary Chairperson

רפואה שלימה

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to:

Natalie Cheerman



Rabbi Jill Hammer, PhD, is an author, educator, midrashist, myth-weaver, and ritualist. She is the author of two books: *Sisters at Sinai: New Tales of Biblical Women* (Jewish Publication Society, 2001) and *The Jewish Book of Days* (Jewish Publication Society 2006). She is a poet and essayist whose work has been published in many journals and anthologies such as *Lilith*, *Bridges*, *Response*, *Natural Bridge*, *Zeek*, *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *The Jewish Spectator*, *Biblical Women in the Midrash*, and *The Women’s Torah Commentary*. Rabbi Hammer is a celebrated adult educator who has taught in many venues including retreats, conferences, synagogues, Jewish community centers, new moon gatherings, and on-going adult education classes. She conducts workshops around the country on ancient and contemporary midrash, bibliodrama, creative

ritual, and Jewish cycles of time. She is also currently serving as the Director of Spiritual Education at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary in Riverdale, NY.

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Please Note: The Family Shabbat Service, scheduled for Friday, December 23rd, has been moved to Friday, December 9th, as part of the Scholar-in-Residence weekend. There is a Congregational Dinner also on that evening.

Scholar In Residence

Rabbi Jill Hammer

Director of Spirituality, Academy for Jewish Religion, Ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary, Doctorate in Social Psychology, UCONN, Accomplished Author.

Congregational Dinner

Friday, December 9th – 6:30 PM

Lunch & Learn

Saturday, December 10th – 9:30 AM

Immediately following services

Havdalah & Dessert

Saturday, December 10th

At the home of Jo & Michael Gould

Services & Brunch

Sunday, December 11th

Beginning 9:30 am

RSVP for each event by Monday, December 5th.

מזל טוב - Mazal Tov

To **Steve and Shelley Kosofsky** on the birth of **Emma Marcia Kosofsky**.

To **Dr. Sherwin Borsuk** for receiving the Crystal Obelisk Award, which was presented by MidState Medical Center for his outstanding contributions to health care.

Happy Anniversary to our couples celebrating an anniversary during the month of December:

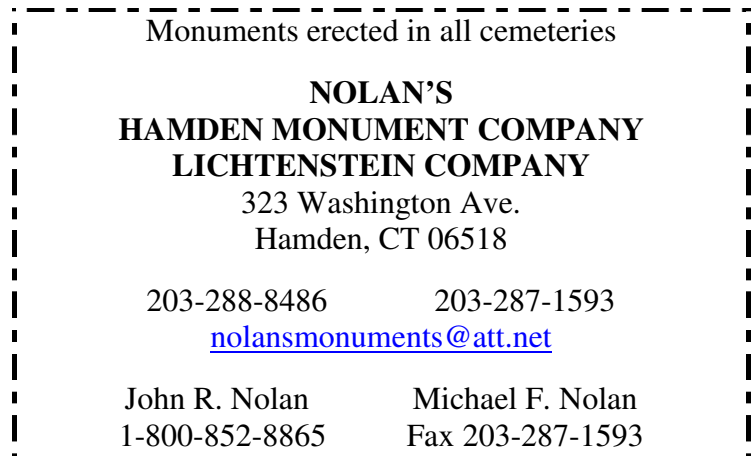
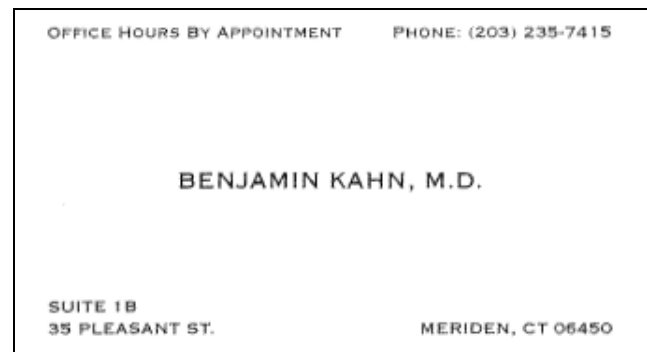
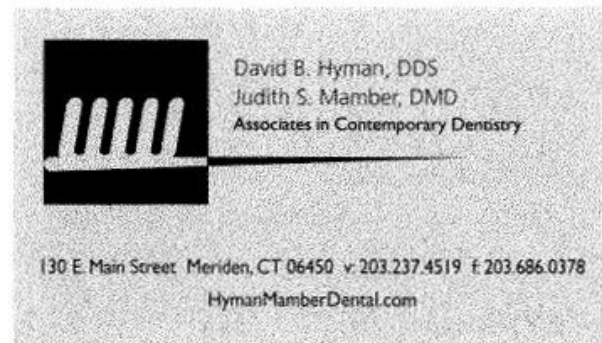
- 7th – Sue & Ken Teller
- 17th – Laurie & Rick Katz
- 17th – Rebecca & Sanford Sheftel
- 20th – Lesley & Abe Chidekel
- 22nd – Adrienne & Jon Palley
- 30th – Raisa & Yakov Filler

Happy Birthday to those celebrating a birthday during December:

- 3rd – Leo Bichunsky
- 5th – Esther Smith
- 5th – Carmen Acevedo
- 7th – Joseph Langner
- 10th – David Nemeth
- 16th – Barry Radin
- 17th – Fran Dubrow
- 17th – Bob Axelrod
- 18th – David Korman
- 19th – Michael Gordon
- 20th – Lori Blocher
- 26th – Herman Sheftel
- 30th – Judie Landsberg
- 30th – Edith Baron

Happy Birthday to our next generation:

- 11th – Jonathan Goodman



Donations in memory of Sondra (Sandy) Rabinowitz:

Those who would like to make a donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, which is the charity the family has decided to have donations directed to, may link to the page which was set up by the family: www.cff.org/Great_Strides/Sidney_Rabinowitz7091.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE
CONGREGATIONAL DINNER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

Dinner will be by reservation only!

**The evening will begin with dinner at 6:30 PM
followed by Shabbat Evening Services 7:30 PM.
and dessert to follow services.**

**Join us as we celebrate and welcome Shabbat,
and welcome Rabbi Jill Hammer**

No Reservations will be accepted after Noon – Monday, Dec.5th.

Name _____

Phone # _____

_____ White Meat Chicken \$9.00

_____ Dark Meat Chicken \$9.00

_____ Eggplant Marinara \$9.00

_____ Chicken nuggets (for the children) – \$5.00

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

_____ I can help with the serving and/or clean up.

Chanukah Gift Fair

Chanukah is coming. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your holiday shopping done early at our Annual Chanukah Gift Fair.

The Gift Fair will be open:

Tuesdays: December 13th, and 20th
from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

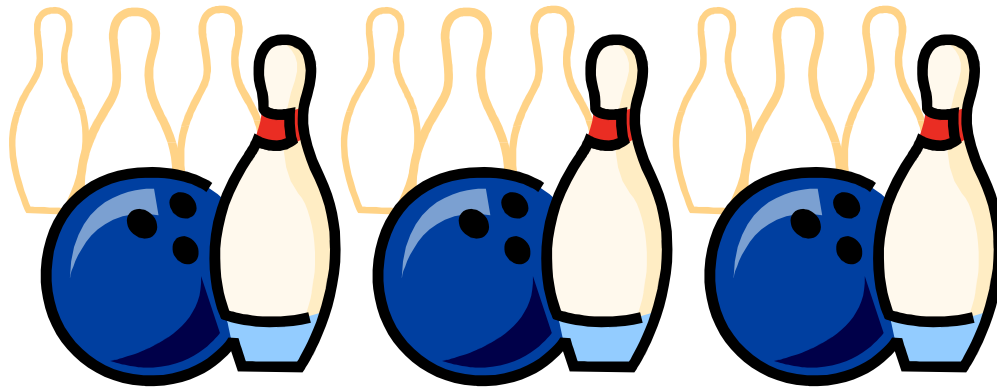
Sundays: December 11th and 18th
from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

****Special arrangements**** can be made to view our holiday merchandise by contacting the temple office.

We have many new items to offer, so come visit us for your holiday purchases!!!!

Also don't forget to join us for
The Latke Party on Sunday, December 18th.





Temple Auxiliary Goes Duck-Pin Bowling
Saturday Evening, January 7th 2012
(snow date January 28th)

Join as we go to Highland Bowl, 1211 Highland Ave (Rte. 10)
in Cheshire, for “**Disco Ducks Glow Bowling**”.
Complete with glow lights and special effects.

The duck pin bowling (small pins) will be from 7 - 9 pm.
The fun does not stop there. Come on back to Sue and Roy
Massicott’s home for coffee and!! 39 Spice Hill Drive,
South Meriden (on Diamond Hill) 203-630-1947.

The cost of the evening is **\$12.00 per person**. This gives you an
unlimited number of games in the 2 hours and dessert.
Or \$3.00 Dessert Only

ADULTS ONLY

Please call the Temple office by Tuesday, January 3rd and let us know how
many will be coming. The more who come the better. Don’t miss out on a
great evening!! Small pins, small ball, hopefully no strain on your back!!

You are welcome to bring non-Temple members.
Be sure to call and make your reservation!!!

Yahrzeits for the Month of December

Dec. 1	Morris Port Bernard White Myron Arlook Bessie Silverman Shirley Sodel Bernard Lew	Dec. 11	Frieda Goldstein Doris Katz Anna Hagenauer William Mark Anna Arlook Cecelia White	Dec. 22	Philip Shefkowitz William Kronengold Sallye Katrosar Herbert Sperling Becky Zimmerman Ceil Bolton
Dec. 2	Avis Levin Benjamin Simonowsky Maurice Weinberg Tillie Abrams Mildred Schiller	Dec. 12	Ethel Tonkonow Dorothy Kreisler Doris Parmett Charles Perlmutter	Dec. 23	Murray Levine Lillian Shulkin Morris Silver Betty Denoff Carl Limon
Dec. 3	Milton Bolton James Pite	Dec. 13	Jack Finkel Barnet Taitz	Dec. 24	Morris Goldstein Mordecai Dickter
Dec. 4	Irving Sorman Marion Beloff Bella Katz	Dec. 14	Norman Ash Alexander Reger Jack Abrams	Dec. 25	Meyer White Jacob Gerber Morris Wilder
Dec. 5	Rebecca Dobris Moishe Rovinsky Harry Weinberg Rhea Zimmerman	Dec. 15	Rachel Shoag Nathan Cherniack	Dec. 26	Esther Goldberg Sophie Barker Sophia Jacobson Charles Hasburg David Caplan Sidney Kaye
Dec. 6	Abraham Katz Mike Eisner Aaron Bush	Dec. 16	Yetta Gerstenblatt Louis Steinfeld Ted Pollans Arthur Kruh Dr. Morris Sugarman Alan Katten	Dec. 27	Eva Jacobson Miller Freda Cohen Yetta Waxman Isaac Shapiro Grace Snyder
Dec. 7	Mary Grossman Sydelle Koslow Anna Scheer	Dec. 17	Pearl Burwick Morris Simonowsky Abraham Winkleman Minnie Rosenbloom	Dec. 28	Alter J Simonowsky Louis (Zelig) Kessler Leon Kruk
Dec. 8	Raul Shoag Frederick Harris Samuel Levine Rhoda Chain Ada Blume Evelyn Rozen Rose Gottlieb	Dec. 18	Fannie Silverman Anna G. White Isaac Hyman Harry Goodman Ruth Klamkin Mary Sigmund	Dec. 29	Jacob Cohen
Dec. 9	Gary Limon	Dec. 20	Meyer Hasburg	Dec. 30	Herman Weinberg Etta Lang
Dec. 10	Meyer Cheikin Samuel Leo Kaller	Dec. 21	Rhea Kaye Hirshorn Benjamin Limon	Dec. 31	Samuel Umansky Elsie Cherniack Beatrice Sadowsky

A Candle or Yahrzeit Light should be lit at sundown the night before these dates.

**Tzedakah 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:

Mary Katz by Richard A. Katz
William Povlotsky by Richard A. Katz
Max Rosenbloom by Dr. Zelly Ross
Abraham Katz by Richard A. Katz
June Bogatz by Rabbi Dana Bogatz
Abe Hurwitz by Rhoda Hurwitz
Bessie Hurwitz by Rhoda Hurwitz
Harry Hurwitz by Rhoda Hurwitz
Leon Kruk by Lucy Kruk
Lillian Shulkin by Norman Shulkin
Evelyn Jacobs Rozen by Marilyn Mazanek

General Temple Fund

Wishing a Complete Recovery to **Jack Winkleman** by Jo Robin & Michael Gould.
Get Well Wishes to **Jack Winkleman** by Deb Katten.
In Memory of **Enid Avizov** by Deb Katten.
In Honor of **Dorothy & David Elkin** by The Perrys.
The following donations were made by Debbie & David Kaye:
In Memory of **Enid Avizov**
In memory of **Ellen Lurie**
In Memory of **Sandy Rabinowitz**
Get Well Wishes to **Jack Winkleman**
Get Well Wishes to **Natalie Cheerman**
Wishes for a speedy recover to **Michelle Grossman**, on her upcoming surgery
In Honor of the birth of **Benjamin Matthew Rogers**
In Honor of **Howard Levine**, for his devotion and dedication

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of **Minnie Rosenbloom** by Dr. Zelly Ross.
Get Well Wishes to **Rhoda Burwick** by Elly Grossman Lowell & Al Lowell.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Memory of **Sondra Rabinowitz** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.
In Honor of **Cantor Stacey Sokol** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.
In Honor of **Sherwin Borsuk** by Debbie Broadley.
In Memory of **Ellen Lurie** by Marge Kirchheimer.
Get Well Wishes to **Natalie Cheerman** by Marge Kirchheimer.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

Get Well Wishes to **Rhoda Burwick** by Risa & Fred Zierler.
Mazal Tov to **Sherwin Borsuk** by Risa & Fred Zierler.
Get Well Wishes to **Phyllis Frydenberg** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

Gary I Limon Memorial Book Fund

In Honor of the birth of **Emma Marcia Kosofsky** by Estelle Kosofsky and family.

Bernie Seidon Scholarship Fund

In Appreciation of **Evelyn Dragiff** by Yetta Seidon.
In Appreciation of **Charlotte Brody-Friedman** by Yetta Seidon.

Sophie & Julius Barker Scholarship Fund

In Honor of their birthdays, by Shelley & Michael Barker.

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Manager

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