



THE SCRIBE

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

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

January, 2012 Tevet – Shevat 5772

From Rabbi Michael G. Kohn

In the last six weeks I attended two conferences primarily dedicated to *tefillah*, or prayer, especially congregational prayer, and increasing attendance at synagogue activities. In general, Conservative synagogues face five challenges when it comes to prayer: Hebrew Literacy; Theology; Time Constraints; Our Tradition of Jewish Prayer; and Music. The most successful congregations are those that are able to confront these issues directly and expect more, not less from their members.

The USCJ *Kallah* was attended by several hundred congregational lay leaders, and two or three dozen Rabbis and Cantors from all over the United States and Israel. The prayer services at the *Kallah* were lively and highly participatory, even though they lasted significantly longer than most synagogues' weekday and *Shabbat* services and included many new melodies. Of course, the *Kallah* participants were a self-selected and highly motivated group. The challenge is to translate that *ruah*, or spirit, to the congregational level, where members have significantly divergent views on what their synagogue service should be.

Our Ritual Committee has begun a discussion on this topic and would welcome your thoughts and input on this issue, whether or not you regularly attend *Shabbat* services. Please feel free to contact Howard Levine, our Ritual Chair, myself, or any member of the committee. Congregational prayer is a critical part of our synagogue life and we want to make it as approachable as we can for all of our members.

Adult Education

We had a successful Scholar-in-Residence Weekend and many participants indicated a desire to have further sessions on the topic "Women in the Bible". I am going to schedule some sessions, but need to know what is a convenient day and time. I am willing to hold a session on a Sunday morning after *minyan*, as well as on a weekday, but I need to know when you can come. Please call or email me or Linda with your preferred day and time and we will have the first session in February.

Cemetery Education

As mentioned in my *Rosh HasShanah* sermon, we, as a congregation should evaluate the possibility of segregating a portion of our cemetery for the burial of our members' non Jewish spouses and children. Such decision shouldn't be made by the Rabbi or the Cemetery Committee unilaterally; rather it should be determined by a "yes" or "no" vote of an educated congregation. For that reason, the Cemetery Committee and I have scheduled a series of four monthly programs that will explore and cover the traditions and laws of Jewish burial, how Jewish communities come to a decision of creating a totally separate section where intermarried spouses and their children could be laid to rest with one another, and what the Conservative Movement has to say about this issue. Each monthly session will occur twice — once on a Sunday morning after *minyan* and once on a weekday evening. The full schedule will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Scribe, but the first session — Jewish Burial Throughout History — will be held on January 19 at 7:30 p.m. and January 22 at 10:30 a.m. here at the Temple.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Michael G. Kohn



HAPPY "2012"

**CALENDAR EVENTS
JANUARY 2012**

1 Sunday

No Religious School

No Jewry Duty

3 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School Resumes

5 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Auxiliary Committee Meeting

6 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

7 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

9:45 AM Jr. Congregation

7:00 – 9:00 PM Adult Duck Pin Bowling

8 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

10 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

12 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Hadassah Board Meeting

13 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

14 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

15 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

16 Monday

7:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting

17 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

7:30 PM Education Committee Meeting

19 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Cemetery Educational Meeting

20 Friday

6:30 PM Family Shabbat Services

21 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

22 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

10:30 AM Cemetery Educational Meeting

24 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

26 Thursday

8:00 AM Morning Minyan

7:30 PM Board of Directors' Meeting

27 Friday

6:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services

28 Saturday

9:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services

29 Sunday

9:30 AM Religious School

9:30 AM Jewry Duty

31 Tuesday

4:00 PM Religious School

Auxiliary News:

The Chanukah Gift Fairs were a great success. Children and adult were able to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones, right at the temple. We had a large selection of items to address your buying needs. Thank you for supporting the Auxiliary by your attendance and purchases. Please let me know if you have items that you would like the Gift Shop to have available for purchasing. I welcome ideas for both the holidays and year round.

The Latke Party was well attended by the Hebrew school students and their families. People attending noshed on latkes with apple sauce and sour cream as well as other goodies. Chanukah DVD's were playing while the children completed an arts and crafts project to give to their parents as a Chanukah gift. The Auxiliary also presented each child with a gift bag containing a dreidel, chocolate gelt, and a Chanukah goodie. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

The Auxiliary will be running 2 Bowling events in the months to come. First, don't miss out on the Adult Disco Duck Bowling Evening. It is scheduled for Saturday January 7th (snow date the 28th). This is a fun semi-competitive night of bowling in Cheshire followed by dessert at my home. It is a wonderful evening...don't miss out!!! The Second event is a Family Bowling afternoon with pizza and beverages. This event is planned for Sunday, February 12th. Come with your family, or come by yourself and enjoy your Temple B'nai Abraham Family. This is always a fun event...come and experience it with us. Flyers on both of these events are included in this Scribe. Look to them for more details.

Stay warm and be safe,
Susan Massicott
Auxiliary Chairperson

E. JACK SHORR

Attorney & Counselor at Law

E. JACK SHORR LAW OFFICES, LLC
1501 East Main Street, Suite 301, Meriden, CT 06450
Phone: 203-238-3600 * Fax: 203-235-6945
Email: ejshorrlaw.com
www.ejshorrlaw.com

Mazal Tov

To **Debbie Broadley** on receiving her Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

Happy Anniversary to our couples celebrating an anniversary in January:

2nd – Cathy & Michael Burwick

6th – Lori & Barry Blocher

Happy Birthday to those celebrating a birthday in January:

1st – Frank Tonkonow

11th – Meredith Ieraci

16th – Saralee Messinger

17th – Helene Koenig

19th – Debbie Kaye

24th – Paul Baron

26th – Keith Acabchuk

28th – Doris Goldstein

28th – Marjorie Perry

It is with sorrow we inform you of the passing of:

Marcia Steele

Mother of Kenneth Steele
mother-in-law of Susan Croog

Florence Kaye

Sister-in-law of Estelle Kosofsky

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבילי ציון וירושלים.

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



What's New in the Library?

Adult books:

Kvetch as Kvetch Can by Ken Krimstein

The Chosen Peoples: America, Israel & the Ordeals of Divine Election by Todd Gitlin & Liel Leibovitz

A New Voice for Israel by Jeremy Ben-Ami

The Fight for Jerusalem by Dore Gold

Rich Boy by Sharon Pomerantz

When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone by Gal Beckerman

Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza by Adina Hoffman

The Queen You Thought You Knew by Rabbi David Fohrman

Confronting Scandal by Erica Brown

Sage Tales: Wisdom and Wonder from the

Rabbis of the Talmud by Rabbi Burton Visotsky

Foreign Bodies by Cynthia Ozick

A New Shoah by Giulio Meotti

In Ishmael's House by Martin Gilbert

Lost Lives, Lost Art: Jewish Collectors, Nazi

Art Theft, and the Quest for Justice by Melissa Muller

Remember – your minimum donation of \$15 will get a new book inscribed “in memory of” or “in honor of” a loved family member or friend.

רפואה שלימה

Wishing a Complete and Speedy Recovery to

Michelle Grossman

Hadassah News:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Centennial program for new members. Our chapter now has 20 new Life Members (11 of whom upgraded from Annual to Life) and 2 new Associate members. From National headquarters the number of new Life Members is impressive – at last count 43,000.

Please be sure to find the flyer in this month's Scribe which tells about the guest speaker for our **Education Night** meeting which will be held on **Wednesday, March 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m.** This meeting is being co-sponsored by the Temple and is open to ALL Temple and Hadassah members, their family and friends. Several local synagogues and Hadassah chapters are also being invited to attend. Please be sure to call the Temple office and let us know how many will be coming so we will have enough refreshments.

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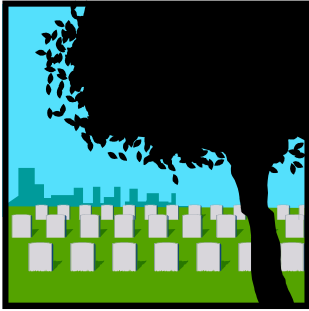
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BENJAMIN KAHN, M.D.

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MERIDEN, CT 06450



Cemetery Education Program

As Rabbi Kohn wrote in his article, the first get-together for Cemetery Education will be **Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 22nd at 10:30 a.m.** The topic for this session will be **“Jewish Burial Throughout History”**.

The other tentative dates and topics, for future discussions, are:

Sunday 10:30 a.m.	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	Topic
February 5 th	February 9 th	How Does a Community Change Halakah
March 11 th	March 29 th	What Does the Conservative Movement Say
May 6 th	May 17 th	Other Issues

We would love to have as many people as possible at each of these sessions. This is a very important issue for all Temple members and for the future of Temple B’nai Abraham. Please let us know which January session you will be attending.

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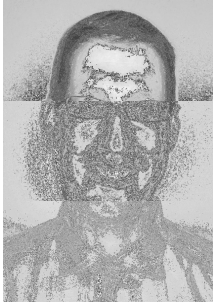
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Dr. Avinoam J. Patt

Avinoam J. Patt, Ph.D. is the Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History at the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford, where he is also director of the Museum of Jewish Civilization. Previously, he worked as the Miles Lerman Applied Research Scholar for Jewish Life and Culture at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). He received his Ph.D. in Modern European History and Hebrew and Judaic Studies from New York University. His first book, *Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust* (published by Wayne State University Press, May 2009) examines the appeal of Zionism for young survivors in Europe in the aftermath of the Holocaust and their role in the creation of the state of Israel. Dr. Patt teaches courses on Modern Jewish History, American Jewish History, the Holocaust, the History of Zionism and the State of Israel, and Modern Jewish Literature.

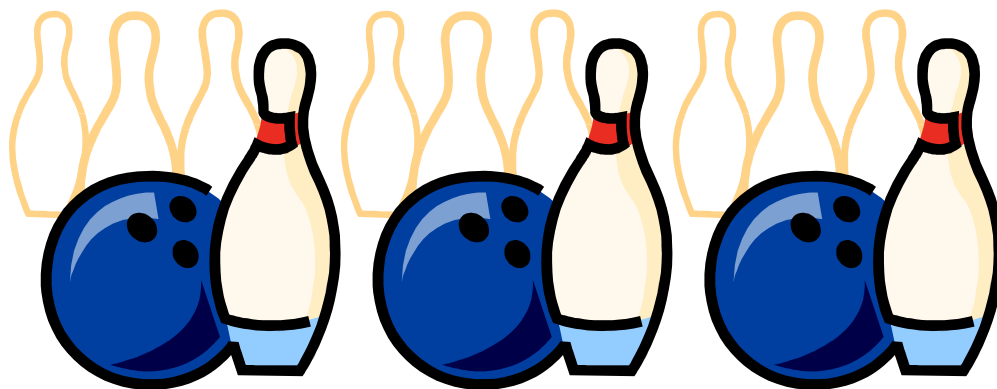
Dr. Patt is part of an international team of archeologists, geophysicists and historians who used radar and electro-magnetic technology to discover what was thought to be the gas chamber, crematoria and railway tracks at Sobibor, Poland. Last July, this team visited the site and made significant findings that will help create a map of a site that was hidden by the Nazis. The Sobibor extermination camp was buried by the Nazis after a prisoner uprising in October, 1943. There were 250,000 Jews exterminated there, but 300 Jews staged an uprising and 50 escaped. In order to cover up their defeat, the Nazis quickly tore down and burned the camp and covered it over with dirt.

Dr. Patt's role in documenting the findings is very personal for him, as he lost two great-grandparents at Sobibor. "From the Jewish side of things, the revolt, which is amazing, is a history that has to be told. We have this myth of Jews going like sheep to the slaughter, and we know that's obviously not true. We know the cases of resistance. We know that Jews not only staged armed resistance, but they tried to sanctify life in many other ways--unarmed resistance, passive resistance, the refusing to give in." The project's objective of revealing what the Nazis covered up is critical in countering Holocaust deniers who claim that Survivors are "making up" stories. Please join us to learn more about Dr. Patt's important work and his experience with the Sobibor Documentation Project.

Return to Sobibor: The Holocaust and Jewish Memory

Nearly 70 years later, the trees have grown and the earth has covered most traces of what was there. This talk examines the history and memory of Sobibor and asks: what is the place of Sobibor in Jewish history? What do we remember and choose to forget about the Holocaust? How does this influence the place of the Holocaust in contemporary Jewish life?

Please join the Meriden – Wallingford Chapter of Hadassah and Temple B'nai Abraham on Wednesday, March 21st – 7:00 PM to hear Dr. Patt speak on Sobibor. Please RSVP to either 203-235-2581 or 203-634-1480 by Monday, March 19th. There is no charge for the evening. Refreshments will be served.



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

Join us 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.

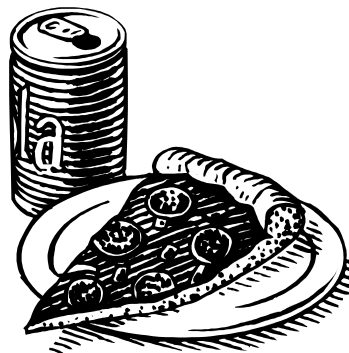
The cost of the evening is **\$12.00 per person**. This gives you an
unlimited number of games in the 2 hours and dessert.
Or \$3.00 Dessert Only

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!!!

FAMILY BOWLING



**Sunday, February 12th
1:00 PM**

Brunswick Colony Lanes, Wallingford

Big Pins, Big Ball, Big Fun!!!

**Cost just \$13 a person which includes:
shoe rental, 2 hours of bowling, pizza and soda.**

**Lane bumpers will be available
for those who need them.**

**Call the temple office (203-235-2581)
to make your reservation.**

Yahrzeits for the Month of January

Jan. 1	Martha Bittman Max Bichunsky Natalie Bogatz Goldman Kayla Nissenson	Jan. 12	Lena Goodstein Rose Harris Fannie Levin Ida Krochmal	Jan. 23	Esedor Derector Rose Katz Hattie Henken Malke Shweky
Jan. 2	Sherman Tonkonow	Jan. 13	Morris Arovas		Mollie Katz
Jan. 3	Philip M. White Beatrice Reich Rose Hyman Nathan Zudekoff	Jan. 14	Anne Pierson		Abraham Paterson Charlotte Buchman
Jan. 4	Molly Bogatz Breindel Katz Jerry Kosofsky Paulette Shulkin Oscar Goldner	Jan. 15	Joseph Risen Jean Cohen Dr. Alan Rozen Esther Muravnick Sophie Sugarman	Jan. 24	Abraham Epstein Abraham Harris Max Burwick Michele Zimmitti
Jan. 5	Rachel Shorr Pamela Fine Arthur Pierson Betty Newman Ethel Naval Rose Sperling	Jan. 16	Lillian Teller Bessie Ledewitz Rebecca Kaplan Frieda Pierson Moshe Shweky David Clayton Paul Levine Myron Zellman	Jan. 25	Lee Silver Max Seligman Rebecca Cheikin Fannie Grossman
Jan. 6	Herman Sodel Abram J. White Robert Rovinsky Beatrice Zempsky Samuel Silverman	Jan. 17	Sarah Gordon Max Hoffman	Jan. 26	Rose Sodel Julius D. Friedman Gussie Gerber Manuel Gould
Jan. 7	Milton Silver Milo Levin Charles Harris Fanny Byer	Jan. 18	David Arovas Harry Cohen Elizabeth Sigman	Jan. 27	Sam Gerber Julius Bogatz Rose Hasburg Charles Hagenauer Hope Tonkonow Leo Smith
Jan. 8	Martin Beloff Anna Weiss	Jan. 19	Dorothy Klein	Jan. 28	Zigmund Ziring Banne Sodel Evelyn L. Grossman Marion Bienstock
Jan. 9	Marlene Kaller Harold Warren	Jan. 20	Blanche Koenig Marks Wilder David Resident Jacob Tonkonow Benjamin Ledewitz Dorothy Werfel	Jan. 29	Elizabeth Simonowsky Rose Ernstoff
Jan. 10	Rose Muchnick Sarah Goodman M. David Freedman Minnie Feltzin	Jan. 21	Dorothy Greenblatt Edith Barker Bella DuBrow Abraham Grossman	Jan. 30	Dr. Louis Pierson Aaron Brown Philip Grossman Alexander Johnson
Jan. 11	Nathan Strauss	Jan. 22	Max Zakin Morris Sheftel Hoskar Frank	Jan. 31	Harry Hurwitz May D. McCaffrey Evelyne Newman

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.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR VARIOUS FUNDS

Yahrzeit Fund: In Memory of:

Ruth Klamkin by Sandra Schocket

The following donations were made by Marge, Janet & Larry Kirchheimer:

Simon Kirchheimer

Jeanette Kirchheimer

Ruth Kirchheimer

Joseph Kirchheimer

Rose Roden

Nathan Strauss

Bruin Lipman by Roz Lipman

Morris & Goldie Goldstein by David Goldstein

Julius Goldberg by David Goldstein

Jerry Kosofsky by Martha Weisberg

Yetta Gerstenblatt by Bea & Ines Gerstenblatt

Ida Steiner by Paul & Joan Krochmal

Harry Goodman by Richard Goodman

Philip White by Sheila Solomon

Paulette Shulkin by Norman Shulkin

Ethel Cooperstein by Barbara Roller

Abraham Cooperstein by Barbara Roller

Arthur Pierson by Samuel Pierson

David Caplan by Marcia Caplan

Sidney Kaye by Susan Kaye Quinn

Etta Lang by Arlene Bonilla & Joel Lang

Beloved Family by Naomi & Saul Freilich

Joseph Risen by Fayette Gordon

General Temple Fund

Get Well Wishes to **Natalie Cheerman** by Muriel Berson.

Get Well Wishes to **Michelle Grossman** by Jan & Jay Weiss.

Get Well Wishes to **Michelle Grossman** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

Mazal Tov to **Sherwin Borsuk** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

Get Well Wishes to **Rhoda Burwick** by Natalie & Lenny Cheerman.

Barry Koslow Torah Restoration Fund

In Memory of **Marcia Steele** by Linda & Jack Winkleman.

In Honor of **Elsie Risch**, on her birthday, by Marge, Janet & Larry Kirchheimer.

In Honor of **Dr. Sherwin Borsuk**, on being recognized by MidState Medical, by Jack Shorr.

Prayer Book Fund

In Memory of **Edith Green** by Muriel Berson, Gail & Jack Havelick. (1 prayer book, 2 cards)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to **Natalie Cheerman** by Marianne Smith.

Get Well Wishes to **Michelle Grossman** by Elly & Al Lowell.

June Bogatz Children's Library

Mazal Tov to **Ruth Kahn**, on the birth of **Ava Marie Liseo** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.

Mazal Tov to **Natalie & Lenny Cheerman**, on the birth of **Benjamin Matthew Rogers** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.

Speedy Recovery to **Natalie Cheerman** by Jack Shorr.

Speedy Recovery to **Natalie Cheerman** by Flora & Sanford Shorr.

Sarah Zietz Pierson Scholarship Fund

Get Well Wishes to **Natalie Cheerman** by Risa & Fred Zierler.

Dr. Daniel Kahn Memorial Fund

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to **Natalie Cheerman** by Ruth Kahn.

Cemetery Fund

From Paul & Joan Krochmal

William Smith Memorial Fund

In Honor of the birth of **Benjamin Matthew Rogers** by Marianne Smith.

Youth Commission

Get Well Wishes to **Natalie Cheerman** by Jo & Michael Gould.

Get Well Wishes to **Michelle Grossman** by Jo & Michael Gould.

