



# SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN

*Established 1889*

April, 2008

25 Adar II - 25 Nisan, 5768

**President: Mark Lillianfeld**

**Send bulletin items to:**

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**Sisterhood co-Presidents: Jo Gartenhaus and Sonya Garfinkel**

## Gratitude, Condolences, and Congratulations

Many thanks to Ephraim Fischbach and Rabbi Engel for officiating at the Megillah reading on March 20. Sonya Garfinkel gets a vote of thanks for arranging the refreshments including a tray of Ro-keach hamentaschen she bought at Costco without knowing how they'd be used. Congratulations to Muriel Harris and Marilyn Zimmerman for leaving the Refuah Shelemah list. Several shul members were involved in the Jewish Federation of Greater Lafayette Purim Carnival on March 23. Neil Zimmerman and Leah Hadashi prepared a box of hamentaschen which garnered a bid of \$20 in the silent auction. Alan Garfinkel arranged for two entertainers to perform and acted as emcee. The Frank Duet provided lively Klezmer music. We send heartfelt condolences to Earl prohosky and family on the

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death of Earl's sister, Lillian Jaffee. Last but not least, we send a rousing Mazel Tov to Susan and Earl Prohofsky on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Aaron Prohofsky, son of Judy and Allen Prohofsky. And yet another mazel tov to Harriet and Sid Diamond on their 55th anniversary which will be celebrated at an oneg on May 2. Surely you know of someone not properly recognized here. Please let us know for the May bulletin.

## April Candle Lighting Times

**source: Rabbi Rascoe**

April 4-----7:58 PM

April 11---8:05 PM

April 18---8:12 PM

April 19---9:14 PM (Saturday night, Motza'ei Shabbat, First Night Pesah)

April 20---9:15 PM (Sunday night, Second Night Pesah)

April 25---8:19 PM (Friday night, Erev Shabbat, Seventh Night Pesah)

April 26---9:22 PM (Saturday night, Motza'ei Shabbat, Eighth Night Pesah)

## Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette on April 4 - 6 and April 11 - 13.

## Refuah Shelemah

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health and long life in the names of

**George Horwich, Sarah Raskin, and Herman Cember, Madelyn Lillianfeld, and Daniella Adar**

## Shul Board to Meet

The Board of Directors of the Congregation is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, April 17** at 8:00 p. m.. The meeting is open to all members.

## Rabbi's Reflections

### The Synagogue--Part 2

Synagogues are holy places, where God's Presence dwells, so some synagogue practices emphasize it. One first walks into a hall before entering the sanctuary in order to leave behind the outside world both physically and mentally as one moves from secular to holy space. Some shuls have a pitcher and washbasin in the hall outside the sanctuary for worshipers to wash their already clean hands ritually before praying, so hand-washing helps separate the profane and holy. We joke now that cleanliness is next to godliness, but in earlier times Jews believed it. If God means everything, one treats God accordingly. We clean and dress up for significant meetings and important people, so we add ritual purity to physical cleanliness when we encounter God. Even during services, if people touch their feet or shoes, pick their nose, or use the rest room while praying, they wash their hands before returning to prayer. Shmutz (dirt) on the body distracts the mind and shows others we do not care what we are doing (we are not playing football). Hillel two millennia ago called it a mitzvah to bathe, for if people faithfully wash the emperor's statue, we should diligently wash for we are in God's image. Nor should one spread germs, which entails extra hand-washing. "Who may ascend the Lords's mountain? Who may stand in His holy place? One who has clean hands and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:3-4, the Pslamist then adds some ethical criteria).

As mentioned above, we wear proper clothing and shoes. One may wear work clothes to weekday services, but Shabbat's extra sanctity should entail nicer attire. We would not go to the Capitol or the White House dressed like a shlumperdik zhlub wearing shmattes (slovenly hick in rags). Like the body, clothes must be clean. Even dirty shoes must be wiped before entering the synagogue. Every morning we say a blessing when putting on clothes and shoes. Clothes and shoes reflect beliefs and alter moods.

To increase the level of holiness before God and induce the spirit to pray, one enters the sanctuary, says Mah Tovu, and bows towards the ark when it says as a sign of respect. Then one sits in the same seat (or within six feet). The same seat helps to create the right mood to pray by its regularity, its force of habit, the sameness of the surroundings. The Talmud says that Abraham fixed a spot to pray, and so God will help us get into the mood to pray if we have a set seat like Abraham (Berakhot 6b).

Sanctuaries have windows (Daniel 6:11 facing Jerusalem; some twelve, recalling the tribes) for light. Seeing the sky inspires reverence. Looking out reminds us that we are part of the larger world. They have no mirrors lest we focus on ourselves, or pray to an image (contra the second commandment). These practices help put the worshiper in the proper mind-set.

Running in the sanctuary (or anywhere else), and frivolous behavior, e.g. playing video games, reading secular books, using cell phones, are not allowed. One should walk with dignity and respect, pray and learn. Eating, drinking, chewing gum, and smoking in the sanctuary are prohibited as one cannot concentrate entirely on God and form prayers with the mind and mouth doing other things. An unclean body or lackadaisical behavior detracts from the proper mood, or at least makes it much harder to achieve it. A shul's holiness is not intrinsic like the Temple's, but stems from similar purposes and it houses the Torah scrolls. An object's holiness derives from its proximity to the scrolls. The holier it is, the harder to use or sell for other purposes. All synagogue property should be treated respectfully and not damaged or removed from the building. One cannot spend unlawful profits on sacred pur-

poses, so one cannot donate them to a synagogue (or any charity). Gains realized by immoral means cannot be sanctified; they defy and defile holiness. All adults model and teach this behavior to the children.

Synagogues are holy and we must act duly by inspecting our actions and cleansing our bodies, behavior and minds to achieve holiness and appear before God. Many shuls put the phrase, "Know before Whom you stand" near the ark. Consider your behavior's point. "Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8).

## Traditional Forms for Pesah

### APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR M'KHIRAT HAMETZ:

I/We hereby appoint Rabbi Michael Rascoe to act as my/our agent to sell any hametz (leavened item) that may be found in my/our possession wherever it may be found at home, place of business, car, and/or elsewhere, in accordance with Jewish law. Enclosed is my/our check for \$\_\_\_ payable to the "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" (unless you make a Ma-ot Hittim (Passover) donation elsewhere). Please fill out the form completely:

Name

Phone

Address

Signature

Date

**HOSPITALITY:** In the spirit of mishpahah (family) the rabbi will arrange for people to go somewhere for the both nights of seder. Please fill out the top form if you need a place to go. Please fill out the bottom form if you can host someone. Thank you.

### TO VISIT

I/We [ ] (put a number in the brackets) would enjoy home hospitality for the first night seder on Saturday April 19 and/or second night Sunday April 20.

Name

Phone

Address

Additional comments/Dietary restrictions

### TO HOST

With pleasure, we are prepared to host [ ] (put a number in the brackets) people for our first night seder on Saturday April 19 and/or second night Sunday April 20.

Name

Phone

Address

Additional comments/Dietary restrictions

## Welcoming our Newest Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our newest members: Barney and Sara Axelrod. Barney Axelrod was born in Brooklyn to Russian immigrant parents. Brought up in Detroit. Sara Feingersh was born in Montreal to Russian immigrant parents, and grew up in Windsor, Ontario.

Barney and Sara were 17 when they met on a blind date, and were married 2 years later in 1934. They will celebrate their 74th wedding anniversary in

June. Barney went to school and worked in Washington, DC, Berkeley CA and Pasadena, CA. He came to West Lafayette in 1954 from Berkeley to join the faculty as Associate Professor in Purdue's Department of Biochemistry. Thus, Barney became the first tenured Jewish professor in Purdue's College of Agriculture.

Soon after they arrived, they joined Sons of Abraham. Sara was active in Sisterhood and for years was the Happy Day Chair, and worked on the Businessman's Luncheon. She was also active in Haddassah and together with daughter and granddaughter was one of the first 3 generation life members in Lafayette.

The Axelrods have two children. Judy, married to Leo Weitzman, lives in West Lafayette. Gene, married to Jeanne, lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Ahem, we must support the Axelrod tradition of punnery by commenting that their genes are obviously quite good.) The Axelrods have 12 grandchildren and spouses along with 11 great-grandchildren.

The Axelrods let their Sons of Abraham membership lapse after it became more difficult for them to be involved in community activities, but they have recently renewed that membership, as an important connection to the Jewish community that has been their home for nearly 54 years.

Both Barney and Sara are invalids, living at home with round-the-clock care. Neither is ambulatory, and it is difficult for each of them to speak. However, they are both aware of the world and people around them, and enjoy visits. Rabbi Rascoe has been a frequent and much appreciated visitor.

### Company's Coming

Save the date of May 2, 2008. We will have Friday night services as usual, but special company will be on hand. We had a call from Twin Lakes Southern Baptist Church in Monticello, IN and they want to mark the 60th anniversary of Israeli when Rabbi Rascoe is on hand. Kathy Brandon, the lady representing the congregation would like to visit during Friday night services with a group whose number is to be announced next week. In case anyone else (Sisterhood?) would like to contact her for further arrangements, her cell phone number is local: 426-3218 (I'll bet you can't guess why I shaded this arti-

cle :-)  
**IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT: Harriet and Sid Diamond will celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary at that evening's oneg.**

## Pesach

For each Jewish Holiday, it's been the custom to include a basic explanation from the website, Judaism 101. The explanation of Pesach provided there is rich in detail and likely to provide something new, even for the more observant members of Sons of Abraham. It is too long to copy here, so you are referred to «<http://www.jewfaq.org/holidaya.htm>»

## Yahrzeits

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Kaplan, Hillel	Nisan 1	Apr 6, 2008
Bosco, Bessie	Nisan 2	Apr 7, 2008
Savitz-Brownstein, Kay	Nisan 5	Apr 10, 2008
Garfinkel, Tillie Schaffner	Nisan 5	Apr 10, 2008
Pickus, Morris L.	Nisan 6	Apr 11, 2008
Zaban, William	Nisan 8	Apr 13, 2008
Rostov, Samuel	Nisan 9	Apr 14, 2008
Rubinstein, Morris L.	Nisan 12	Apr 17, 2008
Fishelson, Matus	Nisan 15	Apr 20, 2008
Gordon, Kusiel Daniel	Nisan 15	Apr 20, 2008
Goldberg, Rae	Nisan 16	Apr 21, 2008
Ben-Ami, Henia	Nisan 17	Apr 22, 2008
Winski, Rose	Nisan 18	Apr 23, 2008
Winski, Oscar	Nisan 23	Apr 28, 2008
Kaplan, Lillian	Nisan 23	Apr 28, 2008
Cohen, Lee	Nisan 24	Apr 29, 2008

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Goldstein, Bella Wolf	Nisan 25	Apr 30, 2008
Gordon, Betty Bernstein	Iyar 3	May 8, 2008
Silver, Anne	Iyar 7	May 12, 2008

## Shul Board Solicits Donations to Special Purpose Funds

The Shul board was recently asked to publicize the various funds to which one can make donations to the Shul. When other funds are established, they will be listed.

The Chosnek Fund, named for Sam and Edith Chosnek, is for ritual. For example, the fund could be used to repair or replace such things as Torah covers and the like.

The Elkin Fund, named for Barry Elkin, is for educational purposes. It might be used, for example, to pay part of the cost of bringing a speaker.

The 100th Anniversary Fund, established By Ed Simon, is for capital expenses in building maintenance. We used part of it for the recent re-wiring done in part of the building. This fund provides a naming opportunity for remodeling our sanctuary.

The newly established Ha Gomel fund is to celebrate recent recoveries from illness (two of which are mentioned on page one).

## Passover Pantry

Each year we begin our Passover seders with the words

*"Let all who are hungry enter and eat."*

Help us continue the tradition of helping those in need enjoy a plentiful seder.

Share Pesach acceptable foods with others

by sending a check to help stock the pantry.

Checks can be sent to:

Jewish Federation of Greater Lafayette

P. O. Box 3802, WL 47996

## Sons of Abraham Special Funds Donation Form

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please apply it to:

Emergency repairs of Break-in Damage\_\_\_\_\_

Ha Gomel (recovery) of  
\_\_\_\_\_

100th Anniversary Fund (Building) \_\_\_\_\_

Elkin Fund (education)\_\_\_\_\_

Chosnek Fund (ritual)\_\_\_\_\_

Donation in honor / memory of  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is the donor's name to be held in confidence?\_\_\_\_\_

Send check with this form to Sons of Abraham

P.O. Box 2671 / West Lafayette, IN 47996. Donations will be acknowledged.

## Donations Recently Received

Treasurer, Susan Prohofsky reports that the following donations to the shul were made recently: From the Haberer family celebrating Joseph Haberer's removal from the Refuah Shelema list to the 100th Anniversary Fund (Building)

From the (Alan) Bercovitz and Stewart Families in honor of Joan Bercovitz's 80th birthday. Building fund

From Jaques Daro for having an aliyah to the Torah.

## United Jewish Communities Fact of the Month

UJC/Federation dollars help fund JAFI programs in the former Soviet Union that have helped shape a Jewish renaissance in these communities. In the past year, approximately 12,000 youth and students participated in an intensive camping experience, more than 10,000 children attended Jewish day

schools, more than 3,000 participated in JAFI-supported Sunday schools, 3,500 enjoyed an Israel experience, and some 14,000 people of all ages attended Jewish literacy and Jewish Studies courses.

## Help Needed Urgently

Our treasurer and our financial secretary have informed us that they are now working in their final year of service to the shul. We urgently need one or more people to begin an apprenticeship so they may take up this work at the end of 2008. Can you help? Will you help? **Will we have to hire a bookkeeping service to do this?** See President Mark Lillianfeld for more information.

## George Horwich Still in Rehab

For those who want to send **George Horwich** cards, **Judith Silverman** got the following note from the Horwich's daughter, Karen, and Judith passes it along to us: " I just returned from Baltimore late last night and my dad is improving. He is really enjoying cards now; is able to listen to music and I even left a little DVD player. It's an enormous challenge to be able to move after being in bed for 10 (now approximately 20) weeks but he has begun intensive therapy.

Addresses:

**George:** Levindale

Rm.#189  
2434 West Belvedere Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21215

**Geri:**

c/o FRONT DESK  
7111 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215

## Last Laughs

Sadie, an elderly lady, goes up to a man at a bus stop in Brooklyn.

She tugs on the sleeve of his coat and asks, "Farshtayn Yiddish?"

The man answers, "Yes, Ich Farshtayn."

Sadie then says, "Vot Time is It?"

([www.a-wordinyoureye.com](http://www.a-wordinyoureye.com))

## Sisterhood Nominates Slate of Board Members

Co-presidents: Jo Gartenhaus and Susan Prohovsky

First Vice-president: Sonya Garfinkel

Second Vice-President: Sylvia Cember

Third Vice-President: Heather Moskowitz

Vice-President for Programs: Sonia Barash

Treasurers: Jo Gartenhaus and Harriet Diamond

Financial Secretary: Gisela Frielaender

Corresponding Secretary: Esther Chosnek

Recording Secretary:

Member at Large: Marilyn Zimmerman

## "Lives Interrupted": 27th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Conference

April 4 - 10 will see the 27th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Conference take place in West Lafayette. Over the years, the programming for this conference has become ever more meaningful. You will want to see the entire program online at <<http://www.glhrc.org/>> The entire program includes roughly two dozen events. Your attention is called to the presentation in Loeb Theater in Purdue's Stewart Center on Sunday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Mona Golabeck, "The Children of Willesden Lane"

Oral Interpretation and Piano Performance

Introduced by Sarah Powley

Reception and Book Signing to Follow

There is no charge for this event. It will be preceded by a supper in the Anniversary Drawing Room of Purdue Memorial Union whose program features a description of the "Kindertransport" by Professor Joseph Haberer. Information about required reservations (\$18 for the general public and \$3 for students) is available from <[sue@glhrc.org](mailto:sue@glhrc.org)>.

## Sisterhood Events

Board meeting, April 1, 8:00 p.m. Home of Sonya Garfinkel

General Meeting, April 15, 8:00 p.m. Home of Sonya Garfinkel. Rose Haberer will present a program about Israeli jewelry. If you own some pieces, please bring them to the meeting.

## Israel @ 60 Birthday Celebrations

April 16

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Purdue Hillel (912 W. State Street / West Lafayette)

Free falafel lunch at 12:30

even if "there is no such thing as free lunch."

**free food all day, games, information and political discussions.**

For more information, contact Leah at [lyablong@purdue.edu](mailto:lyablong@purdue.edu) or (260) 450-3928.

Community-wide Israel @ 60 Celebration

Sunday, May 4th at Temple Israel

Childrens activities 10:30 - 11:30 AM

11:45 AM followed by light lunch, music and dancing.

## April Calendar

Prepared by Muriel Harris

April 1: Tues. 8 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting, at the home of Sonya Garfinkel

April 2: Wed., 12:30 p.m. Jewish Studies talk. Alisha Erin Heavilon will speak on "Israeli Attitudes Toward the Holocaust and Holocaust Survivors." Rm. 313, Stew.

April 4-6: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

April 4: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening services

April 4-10: Holocaust Remembrance Week. A complete schedule of events has been mailed out and is listed on the Internet: <http://www.glhrc.org/>.

April 5: 10 a.m. Shabbat morning services

April 7: Mon. 12:00. Jewish Studies talk. Debra Kaufman, "Contemporary Post-Holocaust Narratives: Some Gender Differences." 1222 BRNG

April 11-13: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

April 11: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening services

April 12: Sat. 10 a.m. Shabbat morning services

April 15: 8 p.m. Sisterhood General Meeting, home of Sonya Garfinkel

• 8 p.m. Jewish Studies event. Michael Chabon will give a reading of his writing. Loeb Playhouse

April 17: 8 p.m. Shul Board Meeting, at the shul

April 18: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening services

April 19: Sat. 8:30 a.m.. Shabbat morning services

Scheduled early to permit consumption of last chametz by 11:30.

April 19-27: Passover

April 19: Sat. Passover First Seder

April 20: Sun. 10 a.m. Passover services

Passover Second Seder

April 21: Mon. 10 a.m. Passover services

April 25: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat and Passover evening services

April 26: Sat. 10 a.m. Shabbat and Passover morning services

April 27: Sun. 10 a.m. Passover services

**DO YOU HAVE DIGITAL PIX YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE CONGREGATION? SEND US A JPEG NOW!!**

LJCRS TEACHERS NEEDED!  
LJCRS is looking for teachers for the 2008/2009 school year.  
Please call Joy Morris at 463-3455.

Sisterhood Sons of Abraham  
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