



SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN
Established 1889

May 2010

Iyar 17 - Sivan 18

President: Mark Lillanfeld

Send bulletin items to:

penmike@embarqmail.com

Sisterhood co-Presidents:

Jo Gartenhaus and Harriet Diamond

Gratitude, Condolences and Congratulations

Mazel Tov to **Neil Zimmerman** who has attained Fellow Status in his professional organization.

Many thanks to **Sonia Barash** for hosting the April Sisterhood Meeting, which featured an excellent and informative program by **Eyal Barash** who discussed cancer research at Purdue University and the Research Park.

Refuah Shelema

We offer prayers for health, complete recovery and long life to **Joe Haberer**, **Fritz Friedlaender**, **Madelyn Lillianfeld**, **Sarah Raskin**, **Barney Axelrod**, and **Irwin** and **Iris Treager**. **Iris** has returned home from the rehab center and is getting stronger by the day. Mazel Tov!

SAVE THE DATE!

Heads up for fun and fellowship at the annual Sons of Abraham **Picnic!** It is **Sunday, June 6th, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** in West Lafayette's Happy Hollow Park, Shelter 3. Look for the flyer in the June Bulletin.

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West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671
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Rabbi's Reflections

On Materialism, Throwing Away, and God

We read from *Pirquei Avot* this time of year. *Antigonos of Sokho* received the tradition from *Shim'on Ha-tzaddiq*. This was a favorite teaching of his: "Do not be like servants who serve their master expecting to receive a reward; rather, be like servants who serve their master with no thought of reward. Let the fear (or awe) of heaven be upon you" (*Pirquei Avot* 1:3).

Antigonos is the first recorded Greek-named significant Jewish scholar. Sokho in Joshua 15:35 is a lowland town, or in 15:48 a hill country town, in the tribe of Judah. Usually we say he means serve God and fulfill *mitzvot* (precepts) not out of fear of God or expecting God to reward us in the world-to-come, but because we unconditionally love God. In the Bible, *fear of God* indicates ethical behavior (e.g. Genesis 20:11, Exodus 1:17, Deuteronomy 25:18). Deuteronomy has many verses of obeying God out of reverence—another meaning of *yir'ah* (e.g. 4:10, 6:2, 10:12, 10:20, 25:18, and how the rabbis understand the *Shema* Second paragraph, 11:13-21). Even the anti-Semite Wellhausen (who popularized the four source origin of the Bible) noted that piety needs to be rewarded not for motivation but as confirmation of reality, proof that we can commune with God. Tradition recorded (*Avot de-Rabbi Nathan* 5:2) that two of Antigonos's

disciples misunderstood him, so Saddoq founded the Sadducees and Boethus the Boethusians, both of whom rejected the world-to-come, reward and punishment, and resurrection, and believed that we must enjoy life's finer things (and fought the Pharisees). (This is not historical; in Josephus, *Antiquities* 15:9:3, 19:6:2, the Boethusians were later and were similar to the Sadducees but pro-Herod.)

The ahistorical debate is nonetheless instructive. In modern terms, it is the material versus spiritual/religious. Materialism is living life as if comfort, pleasure and wealth are the only or highest goals or values, not the spiritual or intellectual; hence the bumper sticker, "Whoever dies with the most stuff wins." For the spiritual person, material stuff can be good or distracting. The ascetic sees stuff as distracting or leading toward evil. Judaism, though recognizing that pleasures may lead one away from God, generally rejects an ascetic view of life, e.g., *The Sages said in Rav's name: "A person will have to give a reckoning and account for everything that his eye saw and he did not eat"* (Jerusalem Talmud, *Qiddushin* 4:9, 66d); and *Three things restore a person's spirit: [beautiful] sounds, sights and scents. Three things increase a person's self-esteem: a beautiful home, a beautiful spouse, and beautiful clothes* (*Berakhot* 57b).

We collect and enjoy. When we finish, we throw out. Why repair? Throw it out. What is newest is best. We buy disposables: cans, bottles, tablecloths, napkins, plates, food containers, TVs, vacuum cleaners, etc. One wit years ago once said that we can solve our city parking problem by having disposable cars. Garbage piles up, but we do not trouble to recycle. Once we repaired, as many times as possible before disposing. Old ways of doing things are outdated. Our culture

disposes its convictions and principles. Morals are not certain; values are indeterminate. We take pride in our subjectivity; we cannot impose our beliefs on others. A result of this world-view promotes the individual and threatens the idea of community. It affects the import of the synagogue. To generations before, it was often the center of their lives (true they were admitted to less things due to discrimination), and they donated accordingly, often taking priority over most things in life. How many of us would choose the synagogue over the kind of vacation we take this year? With disposable stuff, we do not become attached to it unless we collect it. Stuff is to be used, not loved. People should be loved, not used. Things wear out, we throw away. Ideals should be enduring, not disposable. Values and morals should be abiding, not expendable. Antigonos teaches that an ethical life lived out of awe of God is both old and new.

Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Rascoe will be in town May 7-9, 14-16

May

Candle lighting times

Source: Rabbi Rascoe

Date	Time
May 7	8:34 PM
May 14	8:41 PM
May 21	8:48 PM
May 28	8:54 PM
June 4	8:59 PM

Sisterhood Reminder!

Women of the Congregation have until May 7th to reserve a place at **Sisterhood's Closing Luncheon**. To do so, please call Harriet Diamond at 463-1416, or Jo Gartenhaus at 474-6562. The program will feature Israeli jewelry. You are encouraged to wear and/or bring your Israeli jewelry. The closing luncheon is **Wednesday, May 12 at noon** at the Lafayette Country Club.

The **May Sisterhood Board meeting** has been **cancelled**. The **June Sisterhood Board Meeting** will be **Wednesday, June 2nd - time changed to 1:30 p.m.** instead of 7:30.

Hadassah Luncheon

May 4

The Hadassah Donor Lunch will be held on Tuesday, May 4, at Noon in the Lafayette Country Club, 1500 S. 9th St., Lafayette. A very special speaker, Dr. Becca (Wolinsky) Galante, will discuss "**HADASSAHCARE.**" Please come and bring a friend! RSVP to Sheila Wolinsky, 463-9830. Lunch is \$16.00.

Hadassah Donor Categories are:

Builder	\$300 and up
Benefactor	\$145 - \$299
Sponsor	\$126 - \$144
Mt. Scopus	\$ 90 - \$125
Donor + Chai	\$ 72
Basic Donor	\$ 54

Don't forget to add something for the Tower!

May Calendar

- May 1: Saturday, 10: a.m., Shabbat Services
- May 4: Tuesday, 12 noon, Hadassah Luncheon
- May 7 – 9: Rabbi Rascoe will be in town (Friday – Sunday)
- May 7: Friday, 8 p.m., Erev Shabbat Services
- May 8: Saturday, 10: a.m., Shabbat Services
- May 9: Sunday, 1 p.m., Headstone Unveiling for Harriet Berger
- May 12: Wednesday, Jerusalem Day
- May 12: Wednesday, Sisterhood Closing Luncheon
- May 13: Shul Board Meets at 8 p.m.
- May 14 – 16: Rabbi Rascoe will be in town (Friday – Sunday)
- May 14: Friday, 8 p.m., Erev Shabbat Services
- May 15: Saturday, 10: a.m., Shabbat Services
- May 19: Wednesday, 10 a.m., Shavous Services
- May 20: Thursday, 10 a.m., Shavous Services – includes Yizkor
- May 21: Friday, 8 p.m., Erev Shabbat Services
- May 22: Saturday, 10: a.m., Shabbat Services
- May 28: Friday, 8 p.m., Erev Shabbat Services
- May 29: Saturday, 10: a.m., Shabbat Services

Deadline for June edition:

Tuesday, May 25. Please send materials you would like included in the next edition of the Sons or Abraham newsletter to:
penmike@embarqmail.com

Shul Board to Meet

The Shul Board is scheduled to meet
Thursday, May 13 at 8 p.m.

Board meetings are open to all members.

Unveiling for Harriet Berger Sunday, May 9

The family of Harriet Berger announces the unveiling of her headstone on Sunday, May 9th at 1:00 p.m. at the Shul cemetery.

Refreshments will be served immediately afterwards at Sons of Abraham.

Happy Day Cards

From: Steve and Florence Weingram

To: Madelyn Lillianfeld - Get well soon!!

To: 1. Iris and Irwin Treager - Get well soon

2. Heather and Herb Moskowitz - in honor of their new granddaughter

3. Prof. and Mrs. Ephraim Fischbach - in honor of new granddaughter

From: Sonya and Alan Garfinkel

To: Herb and Heather Moskowitz in honor of their new granddaughter.

To commemorate any simcha or recognize any other event call Sheila Wolinsky at 463-9830. She will send your card for a minimum donation of \$5.00. Send your check, made out to Sisterhood Sons of Abraham, to Sonya Garfinkel, Sisterhood Treasurer, 2229 Carberry Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Yahrzeits

Name	Hebrew Date	2010
Berk, Jean	Iyar 17	May 1
Goodman, Dora	Iyar 20	May 4
Paul, Laivy L.	Iyar 21	May 5
McMurray, Paul	Iyar 24	May 8
Feinstein, Jacob	Iyar 26	May 10
Winski, Ab.	Sivan xx	
Levine, Harris	Sivan xx	
Goodman, Samuel	Sivan 4	May 17
Litman, Max	Sivan 4	May 17
Spector, Jacob Aaron	Sivan 5	May 18
Berger, Mose	Sivan 6	May 19
Salzman, Freida	Sivan 7	May 20
Goldstine, Leo	Sivan 7	May 20
Klatch, Louise Solomon	Sivan 8	May 21
Bass, Samuel	Sivan 10	May 23
Roger, Louis J.	Sivan 10	May 23
Altman, Maynard	Sivan 10	May 23
Zovod, Eda	Sivan 11	May 24
Singer, Bessie	Sivan 13	May 26
Zovod, Rosa Lee	Sivan 13	May 26
Tzucker, Esther	Sivan 15	May 28
Elkin, Lucille	Sivan 16	May 29
Barash, Moshe	Sivan 21	June 3
Brodsky, Jacob	Sivan 21	June 3

Holocaust remembered at music program

On Sunday, May 16, 2010, the Lafayette Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. **Clayton D. Lein** will present a concert, "Call to Remembrance," which will feature music about the Holocaust and from composers who were in the concentration camps, among them **Gideon Klein** and **Olivier Messiaen**. The concert will also feature the Midwest premiere of **Don McCullough's A Holocaust Cantata**, whose texts were drawn from written records concerning the Polish concentration camps.

The concert will be at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lafayette.

News from Israel

Our Jerusalem "Correspondent" – Cyrelle Simon is once again in Israel following her visit to Lafayette. She writes:

Dear Family and Friends,

I have recently returned from a safe, sound and happy trip to London and the U.S. Some highlights include an outstanding wedding of my granddaughter at which her dad, Rabbi Rashi officiated. The big event took place with a chuppah and reception in the afternoon, followed by a 2-hour hiatus, when guests returned to a sumptuous dinner and festive celebration. The following week included strikingly orchestrated shave brooches at homes, each more opulent than the previous. Other highlights included the chance to visit with my California machatonim, sumptuous meals, impressive divrei Torah and delightful themes. In the States, I appreciated the warm welcome of my East Coast family and friends, and, of course of my Lafayette community. I spent Pesach with

my daughter Ronit and family in Milwaukee. Among the many guests they hosted was a family from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. I really enjoyed their melodies to the Holiday songs. In addition to Ronit's delicious cooking, her husband Boruch gave riveting D'verei Torah at each meal. At one point, when he began a story with reference to the blood libels in Europe years ago, members of the Tashkent family became very excited and interrupted to say that, although during the year they children played with the nearby gentile neighbors, the gentile children were forbidden to play around Pesach time with Jewish children— a present day (about 10 years ago) blood libel incident. It was been pleasant to return to my light and sunny Jerusalem apartment and to a spate of special days.

Here, I was greeted with Israeli flags festooned on all the roadside poles in anticipation of Yom HaAztmaut, which is in the process of possibly changing to Chag HaAztmaut, i.e., *Holiday* rather than Day of Independence. Many schools are closed and many festive events are planned including Israeli dancing and singing in the public squares etc. Last week we commemorated Yom HaShoah when the entire country stood still for 2 minutes of silence in memory of the Holocaust victims. By the way, in Israel this special Memorial Day is called Yom Ha Shoah V'HaGvurah. (Adding the word *Heroes* to the title). Next came Yom HaZikaron, remembrance of the many soldiers who died defending the State. On large program featured remarks from families, who, tragically have lost 2 members in Israeli's various wars and enemy "encounters". We, of course will soon be commemorating Yom Yerushalyim, and throughout this period from Pesach to Shavuot we count the Omer daily. This period of semi mourning precludes weddings and major festive music celebrations, with the exception of a few days like Rosh Chodesh and Lag BaOmer.

Br'uchim HaBaim': I conclude this missive with a warm welcome to my granddaughter Yocheved and her new husband Yehoshua who have just arrived from London to begin their married lives in Jerusalem.

Shul Board Solicits Donations to Special Purpose Funds

The **Chosnek Fund**, named for **Sam and Edith Chosnek**, is for ritual. For example, the fund could be used to repair such things a Torah covers and the like. The **Elkin Fund**, named for **Barry Elkin**, is for educational purposes. It might be used to pay part of the cost of bringing in a speaker. The **100th Anniversary Fund**, established by **Ed Simon**, is for capital expenses related to building maintenance. The **Ha Gomel Fund** is to celebrate recent recoveries from illness.

Sons of Abraham Special Funds Donation Form

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of

\$_____.

Please apply to: _____

Ha Gomel (recovery) of: _____

100th Anniversary (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 47906-2671

Donations will be acknowledged

Donor(s) _____

Address: _____

Good news and bad

Leah phones her husband at work, "Issy, do you have time for a chat?"

"Sorry, darling, this is not a good time – I'm about to go into a board meeting."

"But this won't take long," Leah says, "I just want to tell you some good news and some bad news."

"I really haven't the time," says Issy, "so just quickly tell me the good news."

"Oh all right then. The air bag on your new Lexus works very well."

Sad – but true?

Avraham is a 12 year old known for his total lack of religious study, so when his bar mitzvah day arrives, the rabbi is not about to let this go without comment. Avraham performs his bar mitzvah as best he can with his minimal preparation and when it comes time to receive his presents, Avraham gets what most bar mitzvah boys are given - a daily prayer book; a set of Jewish Festivals prayer books; a kiddush cup from the congregation's ladies guild; an encyclopedia - "The History of the Jewish People from Bible Times to the Present"; and a Chumash.

The rabbi then addresses the bar mitzvah boy, "My dear Avraham. You have received today a number of treasures of Judaism in book form that will surely enrich your life and make it holy in the eyes of God. I also have a gift for you."

With that, the rabbi pulls out an umbrella from behind the lectern and says to Avraham, "I present you with this umbrella because I want to give you something that at least I know for certain you will open."