



# SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN

*Established 1889*

November, 2007- Cheshvan 20-  
Kislev 20, 5768

Co-Presidents: **George Horwich and Alan Garfinkel**

Send bulletin items to:

[a.garfinkel@insightbb.com](mailto:a.garfinkel@insightbb.com)

Sisterhood co-Presidents: **Susan Prohofsky and Sonya Garfinkel**

## Gratitude & Congratulations

**Harriet Diamond** has once again earned thanks by putting many of the following in a list. Special thanks to **Heather Moskowitz** for organizing the Carry-In dinner we all enjoyed on September 30. My scale told me that the goodies prepared for the Erev Sukkot services by **Madelyn and Becky Lillianfeld** were really delicious. Also, some people may not know that Becky serves as voting member of the Shul Board. We thank her for that too. The shul's gratitude goes to **Sheila Wolinsky** and **Gerry Horwich** for preparing what we are told was a very pleasant Sisterhood luncheon in the shul. **Susan Prohofsky** and **Sonya Garfinkel** organized the carry-in dinner just before the presentation by USCJ Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Daniel C. Goldfarb on October 21. Rabbi Goldfarb is deserving of thanks for an engagingly learned talk. I organized the carry-in dinner just before the presentation by USCJ Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Daniel C. Gold-

Post Office Box 2671  
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671  
661 N. Seventh Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901  
Phone (765) 742-2113  
[www.soalafayette.org](http://www.soalafayette.org)

farb on October 21. Rabbi Goldfarb is deserving of thanks for an engagingly learned talk. Mazel tov to **Hannah and Jeremy Cowles** on the birth of their second child, a daughter. Mazel tov to the grandparents, **Neil and Marilyn Zimmerman** and to the great-grandparents, **Herman and Sylvia Cember**. Mazel Tov to **Yechil Comrov** on his Bar Mitzvah in Milwaukee. Mazel Tov to his parents, **Ronit and Baruch Comrov**, to his grandmother, **Cyrelle Simon**, and a loud cheer for **Heather Moskowitz** and **Madelyn Lillianfeld** who drove up to see the event. Yashir Koach to **Susan Prohofsky** for co-leading Simchat Torah services with assistance from **Ephraim Fischbach**. The same to the women who had what may have been among the first aliyot of their lives those days. **Harriet Diamond, Sonya Garfinkel, and Marilyn Zimmerman**

## A Hearty Welcome to Our Newest Members

by **Muriel Harris**

**MITCHELL AND DANIELLE COHEN**

3331-B Radcliff Court  
Lafayette, IN 47909  
807-5129

Many of us had the pleasure of meeting **Mitchell** and **Danielle Cohen** at Rosh Hashanah services this year, and we are delighted that they have now joined Sons of Abraham Synagogue. Both Danielle and Mitchell are Midwesterners, as Danielle grew up in Naperville, IL (and later moved to Atlanta, where she attended high school), and Mitchell was born in Skokie, and grew up in Deerfield, IL. They both attended the University of Wisconsin and both studied computer engineering. It was a Pesach

lunch at the U. of Wisconsin Hillel that brought them together, and they became friends, later to reconnect in Chicago. They started dating, and then Mitchell went to Portland, OR, to work for Intel.

Mitchell then decided to go to Purdue for grad school, and after completing his graduate work, he accepted a position at Delphi Corporation, in Kokomo. Danielle works at Griffin Analytical Technology, in West Lafayette. Although Mitchell has a long commute to work every day, they decided that Lafayette is the city they'd rather live in. And we're happy they made that choice! If all goes well, Mitchell and Danielle will soon become the parents of a baby boy, due the first week of December, and they hope their large families will be here for a joyous brit milah.

We are pleased to report that Danielle says that the shul family made them feel very welcome. We offer a hearty shalom aleichem to them and wish them many happy, healthy years to come, as part of the family of Sons of Abraham Synagogue.

### Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette November 4 (tentative) November 9-10 (only) November 16-18, and November 30-December 2.

### November Candle Lighting Times

source: hebc.com

Date	Time
November 2	6:26 P.M.
November 4	Standard Time
November 9	5:18 P.M.
November 16	5:12 P.M.
November 23	5:07 P.M.
November 30	5:04 P.M.

### Refuah Shelemah

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health and long life to **Herman Cember** who was hospitalized with respiratory difficulties, to **Fritz Friedlaender** who was recently hospitalized, to **Cyrelle Simon**. We pray that you comfort and protect **George Horwich** (who will have back surgery in Baltimore during the first week of November).

### Shul Board to Meet

The Board of Directors of the Congregation is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, November 15**, at 8:00 P.M. The meeting is open to all congregants. Shul members may be especially interested in attending the November 15 meeting because Lisa Alter-Krule, Representative of United Synagogues for Conservative Judaism will attend.

### November Calendar prepared by Muriel Harris

Nov. 1 Thursday, 7: 30 p.m. Simona and Hart Has-ten Visiting Lecture Program in Jewish Studies, will present Alain Finkelkraut, speaking on "The Jew in Christian & Post-Christian Europe: Reflections on Today's Anti-Semitism," in State Room East, Indiana Memorial Union (Indiana University, Bloomington, IN)

Nov. 6 Tues. 8 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting. Venue: TBA

Nov. 8 Thursday, 3:30 p.m. Jewish Studies Program, Rachel Einwohner, "The Need to Know: Explaining Jewish Resistance in the Ghettos of Warsaw, Vilna, and Lodz, " PMU Lafayette Room.

Nov. 9, Fri. Holocaust Remembrance Conference Fund Raiser, at Barnes and Noble. When you make a purchase,tell the salesperson that you are shopping for the Holocaust Remembrance Conference Committee, and the Committee will receive a percentage of the purchase price.

Nov. 11 Sunday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., LJCRS Parent/Toddler Time, at Temple Israel

5-7 p.m. Youth Aliyah Cocktail Party, at the home of Phyllis and Sherman Winski

Nov. 13: Tuesday, 8 p.m. Sisterhood Meeting, Tal Adar and Shai Hadashi will talk about their experiences in the Israel Army, husbands are invited to attend, at the home of Sonya Garfinkel.

November 14: Wed. 12:30 p.m. Jewish Studies. Monica Osborne, Graduate student, English, Purdue University, "No Poetry After Auschwitz?: Midrash as Aesthetic Loophole," Stewart Center, Room 214A.

7:00 p.m. Concert at Fowler Hall, Musicians from Indiana University will play music from Muslim and Jewish Spain

Nov. 15: Thurs. 8 p.m. Shul Board Meeting, Lisa Alter Krule, associate director of the Midwest Region of USCJ will attend. All members are welcome to attend.

Nov. 18: Sun. 2-4 p.m. Hadassah Art Sale, at Hillel. Art from the collection of Cyrelle and Ed Simon, plus art from other members of the community.

7:30 p.m. Annual Congregation Meeting, at the shul, hostess is Cyrelle Simon

Dec. 1. Sat. 8 p.m. Hadassah Yiddish Evening

Dec. 2: Sun. 6 p.m. Hannuka Latke Party and Sale, at the shul.

Dec. 4: Tues. First Night of Hannuka

Dec. 9: Sun. 4-5:30 p.m. Federation Hannuka Celebration, at the shul

## Yiddish Kultur Vinkl presents

### Readings From The Works Of Our Literary Mishpoche

- On Saturday, November 3, 8 p.m.
- at the home of **Sonia Barash**, 124 Pawnee Dr. West Lafayette

David Bergelson and Abba and Bluma Stolzenberg were noteworthy Eastern European Yiddish literary figures of the twentieth century. The Stolzenbergs will be discussed and their works read by their grandson, **Adam Abba Tessman**. David Bergelson's works will be discussed by his granddaughter, **Marina Bergelson-Raskin**.

## Rabbi's Reflections

### THANKSGIVING Thanksgiving

As we prepare for Thanksgiving (which I've written before is based on Sukkot), what is thanksgiving Jewishly? Sukkot (Tabernacles) thanks God for material benefits and God's protection as we realize life's fragility and how much is beyond our control.

If I ask you for a thanksgiving prayer, many would answer she-heheyanu (...God...who preserved us alive...and enabled us to reach this season). The rabbis called it "the blessing of the season." We say it when we do something new in a given time period. The occasion must be repetitive. Accordingly, we say it during candlelighting and kiddush (sanctification of the day) on festivals; before: Rosh Hashanah shofar, Sukkot lulav, first Hanukkah candle, Purim megillah; moving into a new home (m'zuzah); eating the first fruit each season; wearing new clothes (not leather); when seeing a dear friend after a long time. We do not say it for all one-shot deals and life-cycle events (except pidyon ha-ben, redemption of the first born son); in anything that causes pain (b'rit milah, circumcision for the covenant) or death (slaughtering an animal, leather clothes).

Some might say gomel (...God...the granter of favors to the guilty, who granted me favor). We say gomel after surviving life-threatening situations. The Talmud (B'rakhot 54b), based on Psalm 107:8,15,21,31, defines them as completing a sea voyage or hazardous land journey, recovering from a major illness, or being freed from captivity. Some say after airplane flights, others say no since air travel no longer is hazardous. Some returning from active duty in Israel's military reserves say it. It is

best said after a Torah aliyah, but anyone may say it after the Torah reading. While some say women cannot say it, many, even in the Orthodox world, say that women should say it. This blessing stresses that we do not earn or deserve it, but God's gracious nature grants it.

Some might say the next to last blessing of the Amidah, the standing prayer, usually translated as "We thank You..." but better as "We proclaim You..." God to whom all thanks are due. It actually parallels the opening blessings, note the word in the Rabbinic version (said when the reader repeats the Amidah) includes she-heheyitanu (similar to she-heheyanu) paralleling the Amidah's second blessing about God's power, which includes sustaining the living, freeing captives, and resurrection.

Some might say Psalm 100. Its heading actually means "Psalm of Praise," but it can mean thanksgiving, so the rabbis connected it to the thanksgiving sacrifice. Hence we say it on weekdays except on occasions when the sacrifice was not offered.

Finally, some might say 1 Chronicles 16:8-36, said every morning and on the High Holidays. Here too, "Acclaim" contextually fits better than "Give thanks." The rabbis noted its context (King David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, offered sacrifices, and assigned the Levites to praise God), so they said it during the daily sacrifice offering.

These thanksgiving prayers suggest what thanksgiving means. Rabbi Eleazar in the Talmud (Niddah 31a) says that Psalm 72:18-19, God does wondrous things, means that even the one who benefits from the miracle does not realize it. Accordingly, we say thanksgiving blessings every day, beginning when we wake up: thanking God for every aspect of arising in the morning: hearing, seeing, thinking, stretching the body in bed, standing, dressing, washing, emptying bodily wastes, being a Jew and studying Torah. The rabbis structured the morning service to thank God for the daily miracles of life, starting with nature—twice we say God who "in goodness, renews creation day after day" before we move into being Jews and studying Torah. We also thank God in a short grace before meals and a longer grace after meals. Jews saying 100 blessings a day realize how much we depend

on God, and that we should take nothing in life for granted. For a religious Jew, thanksgiving is not one day a year, but every day.

**Yashir Koach to the many SOA members who contributed to this bulletin. We are a pretty lively bunch!**

## On the Jewish Calendar

by Sol Gartenhaus

Our civil calendar, since it keeps in step with the seasons, is a solar calendar. On this calendar, the first day of spring—as determined by astronomical observations—always occurs on the 21st of March and similarly for the first day of summer, fall, and winter on the 21st day of June, September, and December, respectively. Of particular interest here is the fact that the phases of the moon have no correlation with dates on this calendar.

At the other extreme is the lunar calendar—such as the Muslim calendar—which keeps in step with lunar phases but has no correlation with the seasons.

By contrast to these two is the Jewish calendar which is a lunisolar calendar for which the dates on this calendar remain in step with both the seasons and with the lunar cycle. For example, Pesach invariably occurs in the spring and the night of the first seder is always accompanied by a full moon. Similarly, Rosh Hashanah always occurs in the fall and is invariably accompanied by a new moon.

Now how is it at all possible to have a lunisolar calendar? Clearly, if there were a whole number of lunar cycles in a year, then a year with this whole number of months would constitute a lunisolar calendar. Unfortunately, this is not the case! Rather we find that there are 12.368 lunar cycles, or lunations, in a solar year. In the 5th century B.C.E the Greek astronomer, Meton, noted-- even with the crude astronomical measurements available in his day--that the number of days in 19 solar years is essentially the same as the number of days in 235 lunations. Indeed, using the modern values for the number of days in a year (365.2422) and the number of days in a lunar cycle (29.53059) we find that the ratio of 235 lunations to 19 solar years is unity to six places of decimals or more precisely

1.000013. This cycle of 19 years is known as the Metonic cycle.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the Jewish calendar consists of 19 year cycles, each cycle consisting of 12 ordinary years of 12 months and 7 leap years of 13 months. This, consistent with the Metonic cycle, works out to 235 lunar cycles in every 19 year cycle. The current year, 5768, which began with the first day of Rosh Hashanah on the 13th of September 2007, is the 11th year of the 303rd 19 year cycle and happens to be a leap year. The seven leap years of each 19 year cycle are fixed to be the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th, years of the cycle.

Some interesting features of this calendar are:

Rosh Hashanah and Succoth always occur in the fall and Pesach always occurs in the spring.

There is invariably a full moon on the first nights of Pesach and Succoth, and on Shushan Purim

There is a new moon on the first day of each month

The first night of Rosh Hashanah—which we saw above is a night when a new moon appears—can only occur on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; never on a Sunday, Friday or Wednesday (This intertwining of the calendar with the days of the week is a unique feature of the Jewish calendar).

Yom Kippur never occurs on a Friday or on a Sunday

The Chinese calendar is also lunisolar and its New Year is defined as the second new moon following December 21 (the winter solstice). Thus the Chinese New Year invariably falls on the first day of the calendrical month of Shevat or Adar.

---

Reference:

“The Jewish Calendar – A Mix of Astronomy and Theology”, Solomon Gartenhaus and Arnold Tubis, *Shofar*, 25,2, 104-124, Winter, 2007

## Jewish Federation of Greater Lafayette

Did you see the little thermometer graphic in the most recent issue of *Voices*, the newsletter of the Jewish Federation of Greater Lafayette? It's awfully cute, but it would be more so if it showed a higher “temperature” than it does? That thermometer tells you how we are doing on the current campaign. Your help is desperately needed to help accomplish important goals. First, your dollars support Jews around the world. That includes elderly Russians unable to move to Israel who are still hungry after UJC volunteers bring them what they can. Could you share a little of your good fortune? The Federation also supports Hillel. We make a local donation of \$5,000 and that is complemented by the Ohio Valley Hillel Consortium in an amount that is more than ten times our local gift. What did that money buy? Come to Hillel one these Friday nights. I did and I was happy to see about 50 students who came for services and a nice meal (in which you may partake for \$3, such a bargain, I'm telling you!). Those were 50 people who were maintaining contact with their religion despite living in a community with fewer Jewish amenities than most. Finally, there are other occasions when Federation funds have been used locally. We have helped indigent Jews. We have provided for scholarships. Net result: The Federation is a good investment in YOUR realization of Tikkun Olam. Your help is needed. Please say “yes.” Send a check to JFGL, Box 3802, West Lafayette, IN 47996-3802

### For Women Only

Any woman who would like to learn what to do when called to the bima for an aliyah is invited to attend a brief seminar on the subject. For further information please contact Sue Prohofskey or Harriet Diamond.

### Let's Go Back to 1912

from a suggestion by Harriet Diamond

Bulletin Reporter and Proofreader, **Harriet Diamond**, was engaged in some web surfing and came up with this photo from the Indiana Jewish Historical Society «[www.ijhs.org](http://www.ijhs.org)». It is from the archive and is entitled “Sunday School, Lafayette, IN 1912.” You will have to use the version of the photo

that is on the website to discern individual faces. Harriet did and she commented “,There are several familiar last names, but I don't think the Berkowitzes shown are "our" Berkovitzes. Sadie used to say ",We are not cows.", to remind people to spell the name with a v not a w. However, I do recognize Florence Hartman. People who have been here longer than I have...would remember her. I believe we have some pottery creamers in our kitchen that were made by her.



**First Row, left to right:** Gershuny, unknown, M. Fishman, Helen Horowitz, Berkowitz, Lifsha Gershuny, unknknown, Efroymsen, Izzy Sovod, unknown, Ruth Bercovitz and Joe Pottlitzer.  
**Second Row:** Harold Winski, Sam Graff, unknown, Rabbi, Sara Elkin, Mae Horowitz, Estelle Levy, Rabbi Silver, Babette Winski, Marianne Levy and unknown.  
**Third Row:** Leo Pottlitzer, Goldie Berkowitz, Florence Hartman, Mortimer Alas, Isaac Berkowitz, Beatrice Neiburger, Anne Graff, unknown, and Leona Hartman.

## Yahrzeits

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Elkin, Samuel	Cheshvan 20	November 1
Sternstein, Kadie	Cheshvan 23	November 4
Sproul, Myrna	Cheshvan 25	November 6
Waldner, Don M.	Cheshvan 26	November 7

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Porges, Herman	Cheshvan 26	November 7
Katz, Joseph (Joe)	Cheshvan 26	November 7
Slessor, Esther	Kislev 1	November 11
Glick, Isadore	Kislev 1	November 11
Fleishman, M.	Kislev 2	November 12
Suessman, Hildegard	Kislev 2	November 12
Fleishman, Wolf	Kislev 3	November 13
Krushen, Jacob	Kislev 5	November 15
Cember, Lilly	Kislev 7	November 17
Bass, Sara	Kislev 8	November 18
Ben-Ami, Hirsch	Kislev 8	November 18
Urish, Annette Krauss	Kislev 9	November 19
Kaplan, Fannie	Kislev 10	November 20
Nickelsberg, Bertram	Kislev, 10	November 20
Elkin, Ruth	Kislev, 13	November 23
Roger, Bara	Kislev 13	November 23
Bercovitz, Boruch L.	Kislev 16	November 26
Cohen, Dora	Kislev 17	November 27
Title, Reuben Seymour	Kislev 18	November 28
Cember, Arthur	Kislev 19	November 29
Atlass, Moses	Kislev 24	December 4
Segal, Rochel	Kislev 24	December 4
Pearlman, Eleck	Kislev 27	December 7

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Fischbach, Julius Leo	Kislev 27	December 7

## Tubis, Harel, and Lipschutz Families OK

It was a delight to get the following messages from and about the Tubis families after the evacuation from their homes during the, sad to say, continuing wildfires in Southern California.

Charlotte sent this report on Wed., Oct. 24:

*We just got home this morning. We stayed for one night in downtown San Diego and one night in a hotel in La Jolla. We needed to move out because a convention was due in. Eliot and his family were with us. We both had to evacuate our homes but they are both intact. Some of the trees and bushes look fried from the hot winds but we did not have any fires. The fires are mostly east of us now.*

*The air is very dirty and it is hot out- a deadly combination to breathe. So we are going to stay in the house. We went out and bought some face masks that you use for painting the house. We wear them when we go out of the house. Dust is going to be falling for months.*

Arnold sent the following message on Thursday, Oct. 25:

*When we returned home after several days of mandatory evacuation because of the fires in San Diego County, we had several messages from Sons of Abraham people on our answering machine. Since no phone numbers were given, we would appreciate letting our friends in Greater Lafayette know that Charlotte and I, and Eliot and his family are fine. Unfortunately, we can't romanticize our experiences by saying that we were holed up in a shelter. We spent two nights at hotels, one in downtown San Diego and one in La Jolla.*

We heard indirectly that Ricky and Guershon Harel are OK too. Their house did not burn either, Thank G-d. (Ricky is also using painters' masks to breathe outside.) We also heard indirectly that Mark Lip-

schutz and his family survived the fire and still have their home.

## Generous Gift to SOAR in Memory of "Sadie and Ike."

It is unlikely that anyone who was a member of Sons of Abraham in the days of **Sadie and Ike Bercovitz** is bereft of some charming anecdote or another about the decades of energy and leadership they devoted to this congregation. There's a cute one in the article in this issue about the 1912 Sunday School. My sons, for another example, still find it delightfully amusing that whenever Ike saw them, he had one standard question "When is your Bar Mitzvah?" If you remember Ike's voice and diction, you know that the boys were getting a great introduction to the very essence of Jewish culture. My bet is that he'd have been pleased to find out that one is a rabbi and the other a teacher. There can be no question that this couple gave their hearts and souls to our Congregation. That is why it is especially pleasing to tell you that their son, **Phil Bercovitz** has sent a very generous donation to the Sons of Abraham Renewal (SOAR) fund to honor the memory of his parents. Asked about family activities, by **Muriel Harris, Mr. Bercovitz** added "Well, I have a granddaughter, **Emily Suskind**, a junior at Purdue, a granddaughter, **Carrie**, a freshman at Miami of Ohio and a granddaughter, **Melanie**, an eighth grader here in Indianapolis. These three are the children of my daughter, **Fran**, and her husband **Bob**. I have a grandson, **Robert**, a sophomore at IU, and a granddaughter, **Hilary**, a graduating senior at IU-PUI. These two are the kids of my son **Jeffrey** and his wife **Marilyn**. **There you have it all. I hope our donation spurs others to help also** (emphasis added)."

## LJCRS Book Fair November 4

"I'm not buying another single book. The place is piled up with books and we won't even get around to reading them until we are old and gray." Are these familiar words? Have you said them yourself? Well, that's because you haven't seen the quality of books to be found at the Lafayette Jewish Community Religious School. The sale will help support the school and all the books are, in some

respect, Jewish in nature. They were chosen by LJCRS staff for you. There are books for all ages. Come and bring the kids. Temple Israel. November 4 (Sunday) from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You are sure to find something you just can't live without!

## The Latest on Herman Cember

Herman Cember's family has a website on which you can see up-to-the minute reports on Herman's health. Visit «[www.myspace.com/hermanupdate](http://www.myspace.com/hermanupdate)» The family is glad to receive calls, but the website will make it unnecessary to constantly repeat the same data for each caller.

## So, nu? You've Heard of an SOA Bulletin without a couple of laughs?

### Evening Prayers

Father asked his son David to recite the evening prayers. David didn't have his head covered, so he asked his brother Henry to rest his hand on his head until the prayers were over. After a few minutes, Henry got tired and removed his hand from David's head. Father said, "It's important, put your hand back". To which Henry replied, "Am I my brother's kipah?"

(uff. shamelessly sent by Harriet Diamond)

### Bet you have never heard these Yiddish words!

\* Jewbilation (n.) Pride in finding out that one's favorite celebrity is Jewish.

\* Torahfied (n.) Inability to remember one's lines when called to read from the Torah at one's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Santa-shmanta (n.) The explanation Jewish children get for why they celebrate Hanukkah while the rest of the neighbors celebrate Christmas.

(These were sent by Alan Beck at Purdue and there are lots more.)

---

CONGREGATION SONS OF ABRAHAM

P.O. Box 2671

West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671

**THE LATEST IN SONS OF ABRAHAM NEWS  
FOR:**