



SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN
Established 1889

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November, 2008
3 Cheshvan - 3 Kislev 5769

President: Mark Lillianfeld

Send bulletin items to:

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Sisterhood co-Presidents:

Susan Prohofsky and Harriet Diamond

Gratitude, Condolences, and Congratulations

Thanks to Sonya Garfinkel for hosting the Sisterhood for hosting the Sisterhood Opening Tea in September and to Sonia Barash, Program Chair, for arranging an interesting and informative program on the contents of our medicine cabinets by Dr. Aeri Park. We send gratitude to Gaby Kramer for hosting the Selichot games night. High Holiday Services went smoothly because of the much appreciated efforts of Rabbi Rascoe, Rabbi Engel, Sam Harris, David, Akiva, and Yinnon Sanders and Hershel Krushen. The sanctuary was decked out in full glory because of Mickey Lobstein's holiday banners and the generosity of Sylvia and Herman Cember who donated flowers in memory of their parents. Ida

Cohen receives our thanks for donating flowers in memory of her husband, Isadore. Harriet Diamond and Gisela Friedlaender prepared the Break-the-Fast supper and they, along with Rabbi Rascoe and Jo Gartenhaus, brought supplies from various places including Chicago. Thanks for building our sukkah go to Rabbi Rascoe, Hershel Krushen, Adam Tessman, and his friend, Pam. Daniella Adar gets votes of thanks for arranging the Carry-In dinner and Marilyn Zimmerman assisted by making phone calls in advance. We are grateful to Ephraim Fischbach, Sam Harris, and Susan Prohofsky for their efforts in making the yom tov's traditional hakafot especially joyous. David Sanders arranged for making sure that all who wanted them got a lulav and ezrog. Erev Simchat Torah refreshments were provided by Harriet Diamond and Sonya Garfinkel. Many thanks to the men of Alpha Epsilon Pi for writing to ask what they might do to help the shul. Conversations are ongoing. Heartfelt condolences to Deb Seders and loved ones on the untimely death of her husband, Rick.

LJCRS (Sunday School) Book Sale

This coming Sunday morning, November 2, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and after class hours, there will be a fundraising book sale to benefit LJCRS. Drop by and see what nice books you will be able to purchase as Chanukah gifts for grandchildren and others.

Hadassah Youth Aliyah Cocktail Party

On November 9th at 5:00 p.m., all are invited to the Hadassah Youth Aliyah Cocktail Party at the home of Harriet Morrison, 2844 Henderson Street (WL). The event benefits Youth Aliyah and the program will be a commemoration of Kristallnacht.

Free Internet Guide Offered by Honest Reporting

Honest Reporting, an internet agency devoted to fair worldwide news coverage on Israel offers the free download of a 24 page resource guide to assist in the support of Israel at this url:

<http://www.honestreporting.com/a/OnlineAdvocacyGuide.asp>

Those who read this bulletin online will find that the above link is live even if it is not blue. The following link (also black) leads you to the new website of the Conservative Movement. Gib a kuk. It is also live.

www.conservativejudaism.org

Candle Lighting Times

source: hebc.com

November 7	5:19 p.m. EST
November 14	5:13
November 21	5:08
November 28	5:05

YAHREZEITS

Goldberg, Goldie
Cheshvan 4 - Nov. 2

Jablon, Paul
Cheshvan 8 - Nov. 6

Zovod, Harry
Cheshvan 12 - Nov. 10

Atlass, Harry H.
Cheshvan 13 - Nov. 11

Pearlman, Jacob
Cheshvan 13 - Nov. 11

Katz, Allan M.
Cheshvan 16 - Nov. 14

Singer, Jacob
Cheshvan 17 - Nov. 15

Friedman, Sharon Bercovitz
Cheshvan 17 - Nov. 15

Glick, Clara
Cheshvan 18 - Nov. 16

Elkin, Samuel
Cheshvan 20 - Nov. 18

Sternstein, Kadie
Cheshvan 23- Nov. 21

Sproul, Myrna
Cheshvan 25 - Nov. 23

Waldner, Don M.
Cheshvan 26 - Nov. 24

Porges, Herman
Cheshvan 26 - Nov. 24

Katz, Joseph (Joe)
Cheshvan 26 - Nov. 24

Silver, Isador (Ted)
Cheshvan 27 - Nov. 25

Slessor, Esther
Kislev -1- Nov. 28

Glick, Isadore
Kislev 1 - Nov. 28

Fleishman, M.
Kislev 2 - Nov. 29

Suessman, Hildegard
Kislev 2 - Nov. 29

Fleishman, Wolf
Kislev 3 - Nov. 30

Krushen, Jacob
Kislev 5 - Dec. 2

Refuah Shelemah

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health and long life to Herman Cember, Marilyn Zimmerman, Margaret Robb, Sarah Raskin, Sara and Barney Axelrod, and Madelyn Lillianfeld.

Former Congregant Supervises Navy Shipbuilding

With pleasure and pride, we read that Captain Leslie R. Elkin, one-time congregant of Sons of Abraham, assumed command as supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion, and Repair on September 10, 2008, in a ceremony held at the Historic Ship Nautilus in Groton, Conn.

Elkin's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Communication Medal (two awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal. He is a 1980 graduate of West Lafayette High School and a 1984 graduate of Purdue University. Readers will note that he is the second naval officer to be mentioned in these columns this year. So, stop already, with the jokes about "vot kind job is dat for a Jewish boy!" It is quite clearly one to be proud of!

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. This fund provides a naming opportunity for remodeling our sanctuary.

The newly established 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 it to:

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 47996-2671.

Donations will be acknowledged.

Donor(s):_____

Address:_____

Gifts Received Since Sept. 20

In memory of George Horwich:

Linda Wang and Elias Franses

General Fund:

Philip Schlossberg

Abby Lillianfeld

Jacques Sebban

O'Neil Properties

Gomel Fund

Sylvia and Herman Cember

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?** Speak with any shul officer for more information.

November Calendar

Prepared by Muriel Harris

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

Nov. 1: 10 a.m. Egalitarian Shabbat

Morning Services

Nov. 2: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. LJCRS Annual Book Fair, Temple Israel Social Hall

Nov. 4: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board meeting at the home of Harriet Diamond

Nov. 7-9: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

Nov. 7: Friday: 8 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Nov. 8: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

Nov. 9: Sunday, 5 p.m. Hadassah Youth Aliyah Cocktail Party, at the home of Harriet Morrison

Nov. 10: Mon.: 8 p.m. Jewish Studies Program."Jewish Life Under Attack:The role of the Synagogue in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1938 ," by Michael Berenbaum. Krannert Aud.

Nov. 12: Wed.: 12:30 p.m. Jewish Studies Program. "Land of Anti-Semitism? Home of the Brave," by Ashley Hebda. Rm 214D Stew.

Nov. 14-16: Rabbi Rascoe in Lafayette

Nov. 14: Friday: 8 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Nov. 15: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

7:30 p.m. The Yiddish Kultur Vinkl will present An I. L. Peretz Evening, at the home of Sonia Barash, 124 Pawnee Drive, West Lafayette. Cyrelle Simon will be visiting and will start us off by leading us in Yiddish music. Herman Cember, who is related to Peretz, will read some of his work. We will hear a recording of the Peretz mini-play, "Bontche Schweig", with Morris Carnovsky and Ruby Dee.

Nov. 16: Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Annual Congregation Meeting, hostess: Heather Moskowitz

Nov. 18: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood General Meeting, program by Sonia Barash on Israeli jewelry, at the home of Gisela Friedlaender

Nov. 20: Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Shul Board Meeting (may or may not be re-scheduled to a time before the Congregational meeting)

Nov. 21: Friday, 8 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Nov. 22: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

Nov. 28: Friday: 8 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Nov. 29: Saturday, 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

Rabbi's Reflections

Is Eating Merely a Biological Function?

The story is told of a rabbi walking home from synagogue one Friday night who sees someone who he thought was one of his most pious devoted congregants enter a non-Kosher Chinese restaurant. Curiously, he stands by the window, thinking that maybe

he wasn't there to eat, but then he observes how his friend talks to the waiter, gesturing at the menu. The rabbi keeps watching, thinking maybe he was just ordering a drink, or some vegetables, even though it was Shabbat, Sabbath, but a short time later the waiter reappears carrying a platter full of spare ribs, shrimp in lobster sauce, crab Rangoon and other treif, non-Jewish, delicacies the rabbi had never heard of. The rabbi stayed where he was, eyes glued to the window, thinking that maybe it was a mistake. Then, as his friend picks up the chopsticks and begins to eat, the rabbi bursts through the doors of the restaurant and says, "Morris, what are you doing? I thought you kept kosher!" To which Morris replies, "Rabbi, you saw me enter this restaurant?" "Yes," the rabbi replies. "And you saw me order this meal?" "Yes." "Did you see the waiter bring me this food?" "Yes." "And you saw me begin to eat it?" "Yes." "Then Rabbi, I don't see the problem here. The entire meal was under rabbinic supervision!"

Go ahead, laugh. We know what it means. The story turns on the double meaning of the phrase, "rabbinic supervision." There's "rabbinic supervision" which means that a rabbi accidentally caught sight of it, versus "rabbinic supervision" that a rabbi actually directs and manages the preparation of the food from start to finish, or kashrut, which means, "fitness," in this case for human consumption.

We have a myriad of laws that say whether the food is permitted, the additives are permitted, the processing is permitted, and the packaging is permitted. Being human, we want reasons for all this rigamarole called kashrut. Various reasons have been proposed, ranging from God's commandment, to holiness, to Jewish identity, to self-control, to health, to monotheism, to humaneness and reverence for life by preventing cruelty to animals. Teaching moral links and societal concerns play a huge role.

The Baal Shem Tov once noted that a Jew who would not touch an egg that has a bloodspot on it is admirable. But the truly good Jew is the one who is horrified to touch a rube that has a bloodspot on it. The Israel Salanter used to superintend the women baking matzah for Pesah, unleavened bread for Passover. One year, he was too ill, and sent his students, but warned them to treat the woman who bakes the matzah well for she is a widow, so be

careful how you talk to her, and make sure to pay her on time.

Jewish morality was called into question recently. But first, some background. In 1987, a Brooklyn Habad (Lubavitch) Jew, Aaron Rubashkin decided to bring fresh meat to the observant Jews, so he bought a closed slaughtering house in Postville, IA, relocated observant Jews to work there, and after some rocky years, became an integral part of the town, while bringing the kosher meat eater much more quantity, variety, and even fresh meat beyond the local butcher. In 2004, the animal rights group, PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which can be confrontational and isn't above lying, released a video that they smuggled out showing great cruelty. At first denying it, the Orthodox community eventually realized the charges were true, I won't get into how, and the Rubashkins made changes. Subsequently, they were accused of employing around 700 undocumented and illegal workers and charged with over 9300 violations of labor laws, including child labor, sexual harassment, and safety laws.

Rabbi Morris Allen, a Conservative rabbi, is a vegetarian who encourages observance of kashrut in his congregation with a campaign called, "Chew by Choice." In 2004, in the wake of PETA's allegations, he visited. While there, he heard about alleged labor violations. Eventually, he decided that Jews must respond to the ethical violations, and in 2007, before all this broke, he proposed the idea of a hekhsher tzedek, an ethical supervision in addition to kashrut supervision. The Conservative Movement backed it, the Reform announced their support, but the Orthodox were upset. The scandal broke in May. September 24, the Rabbinical Council of America announced its own initiative after pressure from their own, bad press from major media including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and good press about the Conservative initiative.

This summer, over 1,000 people attended a protest, including Jews from all over, but especially from the midwest. A Reconstructionist rabbi from Madison, WI, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, went, and had an interesting interaction at St. Bridget's Catholic Church, which had helped many workers. She asked them why. A man answered, "We do it because we just don't like to see poor people mistreated, and we

don't like to see families separated. It's just not right!" When she entered, a woman noticed her kippah, skullcap, and directed her to the kosher food table. Rabbi Zimmerman thanked one of the women on the hospitality committee. The woman responded, "We did it because we are so happy to have you here." "But serving a thousand cookies?" Rabbi Zimmerman asked. The woman answered, "We're lowans, Ma'am. And that is what lowans do."

On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, we read from Isaiah 58, that God doesn't want fasts if you see to business, oppress laborers, fail to let the oppressed go free, not share your bread with the hungry, fail to take the wretched poor into your homes, not clothe the naked. By all means, eat kosher food, but remember that God commands us to sanctify the everyday, that food is more than a biological requirement. God demands that we observe the ritual and the ethical laws, the letter and the spirit of the law, and that we make this a better world, tikkun olam. That it took this to force us to do it, is bad, but that we are responding is good. The best of all worlds is to eat with a hearty appetite and a healthy conscience, nourish our bodies and our souls.

Conservative Movement Petitions Israeli Help for Ethiopian Jews

Dear Prime Minister:

WHEREAS: Those Falash Mura remaining in Ethiopia who are of maternal lineage have been declared to be Jews by successive chief rabbis of Israel, and

WHEREAS: they are considered to be Jews by leaders of the three main streams of American Jewry (Conservative, Reform and Orthodox) and will hereafter be referred to as Jews in this document, and

WHEREAS: the great majority of those known as "the 8,700" (referring to the approximately 8,700 Jews now living near the Israeli consulate in Gondar City, Ethiopia) have been shown by previous investigation to possess the required maternal lineage, and

WHEREAS: these Jews are struggling to survive under severe conditions of poverty, hunger, exposure to life-threatening illness (including malaria), unemployment and lack of medical care, and

WHEREAS: they are demonstrating their ardent desire to live observant Jewish lives by attending local synagogue services; availing themselves of the limited facilities, ritual objects and opportunities available in their isolated, rural area (including an unheated mikvah, shared tefillin, observance of kashrut, Shabbat and holidays); and attending classes, as available, to increase their knowledge and ability to observe Jewish religious customs, and

WHEREAS: these Jews are openly and proudly Zionist despite the real possibility of local anti-Zionist violence, which, although not approved of by the national government, has taken place in the region in the past, and

WHEREAS: they have relatives already living in Israel, including parents, children, siblings, and in some cases sons and daughters serving patriotically in the Israel Defense Forces,

We therefore urge the government of Israel to verify their eligibility for aliyah rapidly and to expedite the transportation to Israel of those deemed eligible, while providing and encouraging others to provide adequate humanitarian, educational, nutritional and religious aid to the entire community while the process of authenticating and transporting those eligible takes place.

We furthermore urge that means be found to assist those whose lineage prevent their aliyah to ensure their survival during a period of transition and facilitate their establishment of new, self-supporting lives in Ethiopia.

Date: _____

Location: _____

Signatories

Name:

City:

Country:

Please sign and mail to

Embassy of Israel

3514 International Dr. N.W.

Washington DC 20008

Last Laughs

Rabbi Rabinovitz answers his phone.

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this Rabbi Rabinovitz?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I'll try."

"Do you know Sam Cohen?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the synagogue rebuilding fund last year?"

"He will!"

Alan: Look at the beautiful pictures everyone sent for inclusion in the Bulletin! They fill an entire last column!!! There's one from the Harris trip to Ireland, another of whatsername's grandchild's wedding and yet another from the Snowbird family...and look, there's one taken at the Carry-in Supper!

Sonya: You've gone over the edge. There ARE no pictures there.

Alan: Oh yeah???!!!! Well, that's what you think!!! I see pictures and so does everyone else!!!!

HELP PRESERVE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AT THE GARFINKELS' SEND US A DIGITAL PHOTO AT A.GARFINKEL@COMCAST.NET