



**SONS of  
ABRAHAM**

**LAFAYETTE, IN**

*Established 1889*

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November, 2009  
14 Cheshvan - 13 Kislev, 5770

**President: Mark Lillianfeld**

**Send bulletin items to:**

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**Sisterhood co-Presidents:**

**Susan Prohofsky and Harriet Diamond**

**Gratitude, Condolences, and  
Congratulations**

Perhaps you heard the engine sputter a bit as it cranked up for another year of newsletters. Chalk it up to having a 1941 model brain. Anyhow, sincere apologies for the belatedness of these heartfelt thanks to **Gaby Cramer Barash** and **Eyal Barash** for arranging the games night before the midnight Selichot services. **Heather Moskowitz** gets a strong vote of gratitude for organizing, setting up, and cleaning for the carry-in supper on October 18. Congratulations to Sonia Barash on her release from Cumberland Pointe Rehabilitation Center. **Hershel Krushen** placed the customary sanctuary decorations for recent holidays and he reports that Pat Biddle, occasional shul visitor, assisted him.

**Hershel Krushen** also set up our shul sukkah with assistance from Shai Hadashi. Jim Klatch provided the "shchak" branches for the roof. Then Hershel was assisted by "Scotty" Rumpza in taking the sukkah down. Last month, we thanked **Sam Harris** for tripartite assistance in high holiday services and this month we thank **Susan Prohofsky** and **Ephraim Fischbach** for arranging and leading services for Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah services. We thank **Geri Horwich** and **Sylvia Cember** for arranging the erev Simchat Torah refreshments. We send **Sid Diamond** our heartiest congratulations on the occasion of his 80th birthday. **Sid and Harriet invite the congregation to a special celebratory oneg shabbat on November 13.**

On October 25, the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism presented a most engaging lecture by scholar-in-residence Rabbi Jonathan Porath and we thank the Sisterhood Board for arranging refreshments thereafter. Congratulations to Josh and Amber Fineman on the birth of their son, Micky, whose bris was at the Indianapolis Jewish Community Center on October 26.

**Announcements**

**Neil Zimmerman** and the entire extended Zimmerman / Cember clan would like to thank all who came to Marilyn's gravestone unveiling and for continuing your warm and sincere emotional support of our family. Also thanks to all who brought the deli-

cious edibles to the gathering at our house following the unveiling.

## And

The world-acclaimed, and newly reconstituted and expanded Lafayette Klezmerim will be featured on Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Black Sparrow (223 Main St, downtown Lafayette, around the corner from the the Courthouse). They will be playing two sets, one at 8:00pm and one at 9:30pm. Please plan on coming, for the food, the fun, the drink and, most importantly, to support YOUR friendly local klezmers and hear their new sound (and vocalist) - you won't be sorry you did."

## YAHARZEITS

Name	Hebrew Date	2009
Katz, Allan M.	Cheshvan 16	November 3
Singer, Jacob	Cheshvan 17	November 4
Friedman, Sharon		
Bercovitz	Cheshvan 17	November 4
Zimmerman,		
Marilyn	Cheshvan 17	November 4
Glick, Clara	Cheshvan 18	November 5
Elkin, Samuel	Cheshvan 20	November 7
Sternstein, Kadie	Cheshvan 23	November 10
Sproul, Myrna	Cheshvan 25	November 12
Waldner, Don M.	Cheshvan 26	November 13
Porges, Herman	Cheshvan 26	November 13
Katz, Joseph (Joe)	Cheshvan 26	November 13
Silver, Isador (Ted)	Cheshvan 27	November 14
Slessler, Esther	Kislev 1	November 18
Glick, Isadore	Kislev 1	November 18
Fleishman, M.	Kislev 2	November 19

Name	Hebrew Date	2009
Suessman,		
Hildegard	Kislev 2	November 19
Fleishman, Wolf	Kislev 3	November 20
Krushen, Jacob	Kislev 5	November 22
Cember, Lilly	Kislev 7	November 24
Bass, Sara	Kislev 8	November 25
Ben-Ami, Hirsch	Kislev 8	November 25
Urish,		
Annette Krauss	Kislev 9	November 26
Kaplan, Fannie	Kislev 10	November 27
Nickelsbrrg,		
Bertram	Kislev 10	November 27
Elkin, Ruth	Kislev 13	November 30
Brodsky, Eli	Kislev 13	November 30
Roger, Bara	Kislev 13	November 30
Bercovitz,		
Boruch L.	Kislev 16	December 3
Cohen, Dora	Kislev 17	December 4

## Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Rascoe will be in town on the weekends of November 6 - 8 and November 20 - 22

## Refuah Shelema

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health, complete recovery and long life to **Jo Gartenhaus, Sarah Raskin, Madelyn Lillianfeld, Sara and Barney Axelrod, Sonia Barash**, Sandy Brown, Florence Harr, and Maxine Katz.

## 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 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Urgently Needed Help

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 2009 -10. Can you help? Will you help? **Will we have to hire a book-keeping service to do this?** Speak with any shul officer for more information or call Susan Prohofsky at 463-1980.

## November Calendar

Nov. Sisterhood Co-Presidents: **Susan Prohofsky** and **Harriet Diamond**

Nov. 3: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting, Home of **Harriet Diamond**

**Nov. 6 - 8: Rabbi Rascoe will be in town.**

Nov. 6: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services

Nov. 7: Saturday, 10 p.m. Shabbat Services

Nov.13: Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services  
**Special Oneg Shabbat in honor of Sid Diamond's 80th birthday.**

**Nov. 15: Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Annual Congregation Meeting. Gwendolyn Slamovich, Hostess.**

Nov. 17: Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood General Meeting at Chico's for a wardrobe party

Nov. 19: Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Shul Board Meeting

**Nov. 20 - 22 Rabbi Rascoe will be in town.**

Nov. 20 : Friday, 8:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Nov. 21: Saturday, 10 a.m.. Shabbat Service

Nov. 26: Thursday, Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 27: Friday, 8:00 P.M. Erev Shabbat Service

Nov. 28: Saturday, 10 A.M.. Shabbat Service

## Shul Board Nominations Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, **Neil Zimmerman** would like to report that all the current officers have most graciously and dedicat-

edly agreed to serve yet another additional year in their respective positions (although if any other congregants feel the urge to "step up to the plate" to contribute their share, any of the aforementioned officers would be more than happy to relinquish their position to a newcomer!!).

However, in addition to the 7 officer positions on the Board of Directors, there are also 6 Director positions (that require much less commitment of time than an officer position). Currently, the only person who will be serving as a Director on the new 2009-10 Board is **Sylvia Cember**, who has one more year of her 3-yr term remaining. Currently we have the other 1 yr term slot, both 2-yr term slots and both 3-yr term slots to fill and everyone whom I have approached has either flatly refused or "was not really interested". Please - if you are truly interested in seeing our small Shul survive and perhaps even thrive, consider volunteering to "do your share" and to serve. I ask EVERYONE who is reading these words to give some VERY serious thought to this request and get in touch with me, either prior to the meeting or at the meeting.

## **Rabbi's Reflections**

### **Looking Back: A Seminal Event, and a Chaplain's Experience**

6:22 AM Sunday, October 23, 1983. We should remember. Mostly we forget. A truck bomb explodes. 241 USA military dead in Lebanon. President Reagan said we'd never back down from terrorists. We left in four months. Defense Secretary Weinberger, who opposed being there, said he learned that we shouldn't commit insufficient military forces to an ill-defined mission with no clear national interest or exit strategy. Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's Special Envoy to the Middle East (Nov. 1983–May 1984), said it convinced him that the best defense against terrorism is a good offense, "take the war to them, to go after them where they are, where they live, where they plan, where they hide, go after their finances, go after the people who harbor and assist them." Osama bin Laden told ABC News in a 1998 interview, the U.S. response to the Beirut bombing showed "the decline of American power and the weakness of the American soldier, who is ready to wage cold wars but unprepared to fight long wars. This was proven in Beirut in 1983, when the Marines

fled." Beirut led to the 9/11 attacks, Afghanistan, Iraq and beyond. It should have been a wake-up call that a new threat, requiring a new response, would replace the Soviet Union: militant, fundamentalist Islam.

Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff was there because he wouldn't fly back to his base on Shabbat after leading a memorial service on Friday for Alan Soifert, a Marine shot by a sniper. Four days after the bombing, Vice President George Bush led a team to the site and asked Rabbi Resnicoff to send a report of the attack and rescue effort to the White House. President Reagan read it at Rev. Jerry Falwell's Baptist Fundamentalism '84 convention. Full text and video are at <http://www.resnicoff.net/FalwellConvention.html>.

"One of the first to reach the building after the blast, I—along with Lieutenant Commander George ("Pooch") Pucciarelli, the Catholic chaplain...faced a scene almost too terrible to describe. Bodies, and pieces of bodies, were everywhere. Screams of those injured or trapped were barely audible at first, as our minds struggled to grapple with the reality before us: a massive, four-story building reduced to a pile of rubble....

"There was a sense of God's presence that day in the small miracles of life which we encountered in each body that, despite all odds, still had a breath within. But there was more of His presence, more to keep our faith alive, in the heroism—and in the humanity—of the men who responded to the cries for help....

"Certain images will stay with me, always....a Marine...found a wad of money amidst the rubble. He held it at arm's length as if it were dirty and cried out for a match or lighter, so that it could be burned. No one...wanted to profit from...the catastrophe....

"Working with the wounded—sometimes comforting, and simply letting them know help was on the way; sometimes trying to pull and carry those whose injuries appeared less dangerous...than the approaching fire or the smothering smoke—my kippa [skullcap] was lost....I had used it to mop someone's brow. Father Pucciarelli...cut a circle out of his cap, a piece of camouflage cloth that would become my temporary head covering. ...we wanted those Marines to know not just that we were Chaplains, but

that he was Christian and that I was Jewish....we both wanted to shout the message in a land where people were killing each other...partially based on the differences in religion...that we—we Americans—still believed that we could be proud of our particular religions and yet work side by side when the time came to help others, to comfort, and to ease pain.

“Father Pucciarelli and I worked that day as brothers. The words from the prophet Malachi kept recurring to me, words he had uttered...as he had looked...at fighting and cruelty and pain:“Have we not all one Father?“....“Has not one God created us all?“ It was painfully..., tragically obvious, that our world still could not show that we had learned to answer “yes.“ Still...perhaps some of us can keep the question alive. Some of us could cry out—as the Marines did that day—that we believe the answer is yes.

“Before the bombing, Pooch and I had been in a building...a hundred yards away. There had been one other Chaplain, Lieutenant Danny Wheeler, a Protestant minister, who had spent the night in the building that was attacked....I hugged him as they brought over a stretcher...his first words....unsure of his own condition, he asked how his clerk was. Like so many...we would save that day, he asked first about others....

“After the living were taken out, there was much more work to be done. With the wounded, with those who had survived, there was...trying to ease a gnawing feeling of guilt that would slowly surface: guilt that they had somehow let down their comrades by not dying....So, our job was to tell them how every life saved was important to us: how their survival was important to our faith, and our hope. They had to give thanks—with us—that they still had the gift, and the responsibility of lives that would go on....

“This was a tragedy of people...each...unique...each had a story. Each had a past, and each had been cheated of a future. As the Mishnah puts it, each was a world. We were not digging up “two hundred and forty.“ We were digging up one, plus one, plus one....

“I remember the first time I jumped in a foxhole...within the U.S. area. Looking around at the

others..., I made the remark that we...had set up the only “interfaith foxholes“ in Beirut! The Druze, Muslims, Christians, all had theirs. The...Israeli Army had theirs. But we were together. I made the comment then that perhaps if the world had more interfaith foxholes, there might be less of a need for foxholes altogether....

“During those days..., a Marine...would send a silent signal that he wanted me—...a chaplain—near. Sometimes...to talk. Sometimes...so that he could shrug his shoulders or lift his eyes in despair. Sometimes...just to feel that I was near—for, despite the struggles I might be feeling on a personal level, I was a chaplain, and therefore a symbol that there was room for hope, and for dreams, even at the worst of times.

“In Jewish tradition,...when we visit...a mourner during shiva, the first week following the death of a loved one, visitors follow a...rule. If a mourner initiates the conversation, the visitor responds. Otherwise,...sit in silence, communicating concern through your very presence...without words....I applied the rules of shiva during those days of digging. When a Marine or a sailor said something, I responded; otherwise, I stood by....

“...the rabbis offered one interpretation of the Biblical verse that...we are created “in the image of God.“ It does not refer to physical likeness...but to spiritual potential. We have within us the power to reflect...the highest values of our Creator. As God is forgiving and merciful, so can we be. As He is caring and kind, so must we strive to be. As He is filled with love, so must we be.

“Because of the actions I witnessed during the hell in Beirut, I glimpsed...a fleeting image of heaven. For, in the hearts and hands of men who chose to act as brothers, I glimpsed God's hand as well. I did not stand alone to face a world forsaken by God; I felt I was part of one created with infinite care, and wonderful—awesome—potential.

“We live in a world where it is not hard to find cause for despair. The chaplain has the challenge to bring to those who often see terror at its worst some reason for hope.

“We need to keep faith and to keep searching, even during the worst of times. Only then may we find

strength...to keep believing that the best of times still might be."

## Purdue Jewish Studies November Events

History Department Colloquium  
1989-2009: 20 Years After the Fall

### Monday, November 9

Part I: 3pm-6pm ~ Lawson 1142  
(lectures by Padraic Kennedy/IU, Julia Gray/  
Pittsburgh, Constantin Iordachi/Central European  
University)

Part II: 8pm ~ Krannert Auditorium  
(film screening: A Kis Utazas [The Short Trip](Hun-  
gary, 2000) )

**Wednesday, November 18** ~ Beering Hall, Room  
1255 ~ 12:30

Rabbi Dr. Daniel P. Aldrich, Assistant Professor, De-  
partment of Political Science, Purdue University, "Is  
An Alternative Capitalism Possible? Hints from Jew-  
ish and Japanese Thought."

**Thursday, November 19** ~ Stanley Coulter, Room  
G039 ~ 3:30

Sergio Chejfec, Jewish-Argentine writer and instruc-  
tor, New York University, "Los motivos de una  
novela. Sobre Baroni: un viaje." (In Spanish)

## Sisterhood Offers Happy Day Cards

To commemorate any "simcha" call Sheila Wolinsky  
at 463-9830 or Iris Treager at 463-2468, They 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.

## Board To Meet

The Shul Board of Directors will meet at the Shul on  
Thursday, November 12 at **7:30 p.m.** This meeting  
is scheduled to be before the **Congregational  
Meeting on November 15.** Board meetings are  
open to all members.

## November

## Candlelighting Times

source: Orthodox Union ([www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org))

### Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 1.

November 6	5:22 p.m.
November 13	5:15 p.m.
November 20	5:10 p.m.
November 27	5:06 p.m.

## Letter from Jerusalem

Cyrelle Simon

### Sleep In?

It is customary for many men to sleep, as well as eat  
in the Sukkah. So, here, as in many religious  
neighborhoods, Sukkot are quite large. Some fami-  
lies even have 2 sukkot, one for sleeping and one  
for eating. The weather here has been very com-  
fortable over the Chag, and I haven't seen a single  
bee.

### Another Lafayette Reunion

Last Shabbos, I was very pleased to have hosted  
Bobby Lillianfeld. He was spending the week in Is-  
rael, making a presentation at an International Phys-  
ics Conference in Tel Aviv. Our day was punctuated  
by several invitations to 2 chareidi families. Both  
men are brilliant Ph.Ds. with 7, and 9 children. The  
conversation was stimulating as Bobby discussed  
his work and his grandparents' New York roots. We  
also enjoyed some singing. On Motzei Shabbos, we  
were invited to visit Avital and Boaz Arielli at their  
beautiful new 4 level home in Mevasseret Zion, a  
suburb of Jerusalem. Gabie Heilbrun and her hus-  
band Moshe with their young daughter, Naama  
joined us for some spirited scientific discussions and  
some reminiscing of the times the Heilbrun / Reu-  
venis, and Ariellis lived in Lafayette. Bobby was  
planning a visit to the Weizman Institute in Rehovot  
before returning to the States. He hoped to meet  
Jun Miyamoto who works in the Physics Department  
there. By the way, Jun will soon be relocating to Ba-  
ton Rouge, Louisiana.



## Mixed Marriages

Some years ago, a galitzianer\litvack marriage was considered mixed. Now, in Israel, a Sephardi\Ashkenazi union is considered mixed. My family is now in the process of adjusting to just such a Kultur -Kamf as my grandson, Menachem, just recently aged 20, will soon be marrying a girl of Iraqi - Moroccan descent. The customs of both groups are very different, but the halacha is that the bride needs to adopt her husband's customs and is what will be happening in this situation. He had a lively "erusin", engagement party including some intriguing oriental songs, and melodies, and a "henna". The bride's hands and face are covered with removable dye, but I don't know the symbolism of this ritual. Merav, the Kallah, was decked out in a royal robe and looked very pretty. All the jewelry, I was told, must be gold.

The above took place last week, with the wedding scheduled for early Dec. I imagine the amalgam of customs will be interesting.

Just last night, my granddaughter, Yocheved, asked me if I'd like a new grandson, and very joyfully announced her engagement. Wedding plans tentatively are planned for March. Her chosen is English, from a good London family who has been learning in yeshivah in Israel for the last 3 years.

## Brit Mila

I was recently at a Brit from my upstairs neighbors, with the 14 children. One of their younger daughters gave birth. Of course the event was held in a large hall, and I was so impressed that, as far as I could count, all fourteen children, their spouses and families were in attendance. One of the advantages of living here is the ability to attend many family functions, without traveling long distances. I noticed that the men kissed one another on both cheeks. I don't know the derivation of this custom. Another interesting fact is that Ashkenazim tend to make a brit in the morning. My son, Rabbi Rashi, told me that this is in memory of Avraham Avinu who got up early to take Yitzchak up to be sacrificed. Another reason, as my grandson Simcha advised, is that you should hurry to do a mitzvah. My husband, Ed, used to say, "One should run to do mitzvahs". On the other hand Sefardim tend to make a brit in the afternoon. And after doing some research, I haven't

yet discovered why the difference in time preferences.

## Annulment of Vows

This was a new custom for me. At one of my shiurim (Jewish lecture - lessons) three religious men formed a beit din (Jewish court). A group of about 150 women, of all ages, students in the class, stood up and read, in English, a few paragraphs spelling out the promises or vows they had made that they regretted. The men then answered with a ritual Hebrew paragraph, nullifying these vows. My grandsons, Menachem and Saadia, told me that in the weeks before Rosh Ha Shona four boys gather together. Three become the Beit Din and listen to the fourth, and they rotate, each one having a chance to participate in the beit din, and having the opportunity to have his vows annulled. This ceremony is called "Hatoras Nedarim."

## On the Web

Truth to tell, this article is a space filler. Many of you have heard of the new Microsoft search engine called BING. Here are some items I found by entering JUDAISM. Perhaps you will enjoy looking at some of these.

<http://judaism.about.com/>

I have seen about.com sites, but I did not know there was one dedicated to Judaism. While examining the site, I found an article on Jewish symbols along including one called "hamsa." At the risk of showing you how ignorant I am, I say "Who knew?"

<http://judaism.about.com/od/judaismbasics/a/whatisahamsa.htm>

Here's a site I found on BING that has been around since 1993. It covers a wide range of Jewish topics and I will probably be looking at it again.

<http://www.shamash.org/trb/judaism.html>

and one last one

<http://www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/WhyDoPeopleHatetheJews/>