January - February 2021 טבת - שבט - אדר תשפ"א

ATC Bulletin



Lighting our family Menorah



Each night of Chanukah, just before the start of Minyan, our families joined on Zoom and lit their menorah as we all recited prayers. Thank you to the Hait, Abecassis, Slotnick, Lewis, Alpert, Berman, Grinberg, and Forman families, as a new tradition began this year!





Ahavath Torah Congregation

1179 Central Street, Stoughton MA 02072 www.atorah.org

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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President's Message



Good day everyone and I hope all had a most pleasant Chanukah and New Year.

I did have a thought:

I recently received a notice to renew my Day Timer calendar. I'm still trying to figure out what to do with my 287 blank pages from 2020.

I knew when I took this responsibility as President of Ahavath Torah Congregation, it would be a lot of work and a labor of love. My responsibilities have grown beyond my wildest imagination due to the pandemic, but my respect and love for our ATC community have only been enhanced by the work of our community and the dedicated clergy and volunteers who make this home so special.

At ATC, we are a family. And families make sacrifices for the betterment of the whole. Families adapt to their circumstances, and most importantly, families find ways to move forward regardless of the impediments put in front of them. Our ATC family is no different. We have been focused, creative and productive while providing a safe and caring environment. And we have continued on our core mission of Jewish life through lifelong learning, spiritual growth, and community engagement. Life is not easy these days. We face uncertainty, isolation, and frustration. We feel confined, restricted, and always limited. The world has changed. And we at ATC have adapted. We are resilient.

Continued on pages 8 & 9

Team Leaders

Annual Community Dinner Diane and Bob Cohn Helayne Magier **ATC Judaica Shoppe** Lynne Rosenbloom Sandy Stogel

Bingo Leslie Boyle David Schulze Bingo Cafe Marcia Boland-Wells Blood Drive Howard Levenson B'nai Mitzvah Paula Gaffin Book an Event Maria Woolf

Brotherhood David Schulze Stu Weiner **Building and Grounds** David Schulze

Bulletin David Steinberg

Communications Emily Prigot Rob Yunich

Development and Special Events David Lurie

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Financial Assistance Howard Levenson

Youth and USY Lesley Bornstein

Fundraising Rob Yunich

Israel Engagement Michael Shain Jewish Family Table Elliot Rosen

Lifelong Learning Arthur Arkanase Michael Shain

Member Services Bob Cohn Marv Asnes **Ritual** Everett Levenson Rob Vazzana

School Sheryl Asnes

Sisterhood Madeleine Lewis Cindy Smith

Scrip Sheryl Asnes Wendy Schulze Helayne Magier

Tree of Life Cindy Smith
Youth and Family Education

Sheryl Asnes Lesley Bornstein Madeleine Lewis Nancy Hait



From the Rabbi's Desk

While some holidays, like Yom Kippur and Pesach, have always taken a central place in the Jewish calendar, others had a tendency to fall in and out of favor. A well-known example is Hanukkah, but even a more striking example is Tu B'Shvat (which we will celebrate on January 28), as it owes its historical revival to the least expected people: A Jewish False Messiah and a US Secretary of Agriculture.

Tu B'Shvat simply means "the 15th day of the month of Shvat" and was originally a Tax Day for the purpose of tithing fruit to the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. The farmer would calculate all the produce he grew until that date and would pay accordingly. After the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE, the practice became obsolete and would have been completely forgotten had the rabbis of the Mishnah (200 CE) not given it a rather festive name – "Rosh Hashanah (New Year) for the Trees".

Despite its celebratory name, Tu B'Shvat had neither prayers nor rituals and remained a theoretical subject until Rabbi Isaac Luria moved from Cairo to Tzfat in the 16th century and attached to it a mystical meaning. Luria even crafted a little sefer and seder surrounding Tu B'Shevat, the Pri Etz Hadar.

One of the people who were influenced by Luria's revolutionary thinking that involved the belief that the messiah was just around the corner was a young Jewish man from Izmir by the name of Shabbatai Tzvi. Tzvi proclaimed himself to be the Messiah and many Jews followed him until he ended up converting to Islam (albeit under duress). Yet, some remained loyal to him even after his death. In his honor, the believers celebrated Tu B'Shvat as Shabbatai Tzvi Day (mainly because he was known as a "Tree of Life") with a festive meal, modeled after the Passover Seder. The ritual feast included eating 30 fruits, drinking 4 cups of wine and the recitation of prayers and of biblical readings. Despite its origin in a False Messiah, the Tu B'Shvat Seder was adopted by many rabbis and is still celebrated today across all Jewish denominations.

In 1872, Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper editor and later US Secretary of Agriculture, founded Arbor Day by planting one million trees in his state. The news about the new festival quickly spread all over the US and across the ocean. Hamelitz, an influential Hebrew newspaper published in Saint Petersburg,



called it fondly "new Yankee holiday". A week later, the paper went further and claimed that Arbor Day was in fact a Jewish festival and its name is New Year's for the Trees – Tu B'Shvat. Now, with Arbor Day as completely Jewish, planting trees became an important historical Jewish ideal. This is when Jews began planting trees (or sending money for that purpose) in the Land of Israel (pre and post Statehood).

Today, while we still eat fruits and plant trees, we must still remember what the Rabbis stated in Midrash Kohelet Raba 7:28 sometime 1600 to 1800 years ago.

"When the Holy One of Blessing created the first human, He took him and showed him all trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him 'See My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. And everything that I created, I created it for you. Be careful not to spoil or destroy My world – for if you do, there will be nobody after you to repair it."

Jewish textual concern for our world and the environment centuries long before the advent of the modern environmental movement.

Tu B'Shvat higia, Chag Ha'Ilanot – Tu B'Shevat is arriving, the Festival of the Trees!

Rabbi J





There are so many ways
Ahavath Torah makes the 8 days
of Chanukah a treasured holiday
for our ATC family and
surrounding community.



1 Jewish Family Table

December 13, ATC helped the Jewish community food pantry of the South Shore with our monthly donations. A big thank you to Eliot Rosen for his work.

Stoughton Police and ATC partner for holiday shopping

A huge thank you for the generous donations by our members. Ahavath Torah is the only house of worship in Stoughton supporting this effort with a donation in excess of \$1,200.

A special thank you to Diane and Bob Cohn for their efforts.

6 Chanukah Cards for The Copley at Stoughton

Our students created beautiful Chanukah cards for the Jewish residents at Copley

2 Ilse Marks Food Pantry

ATC provided dozens of boxes of cake and brownie mixes, pasta, and much more!

Thank you Bingo!

4 Ahavath Torah gives thanks

to our Stoughton First responders with our annual Christmas Dinner.
Thank you Bob

5 Ahavath Torah gives thanks

to our members with holiday wishes

7 Lighting the family Menorah

Thank you to our families for giving their time to light their menorah each night of Chanukah



8 Lighting the ATC Menorah

Thank you to our members who gave their time lighting our menorah each night of Chanukah



Ahavath Torah Congregation

Celebrating Jewish Holidays for 101 years

1919 - 2020



Calendar

Please note that as of this printing, the building may not be available for any of the services listed below. Please watch your email or contact the office (781-344-8733 or office@atorah.org) if you are unsure.

Virtual services may be available. Check for times and instructions.

Shabbat VaYechi	Shabbat Yitro
Friday, January 1	Friday February 5
Candle lighting4:05 PM Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Candle lighting4:46 PM Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
	Saturday February 6
Saturday, January 2 Tefillah9:30 AM	
Havdalah5:11 PM	Tefillah9:30 AM Havdalah5:50 PM
Shabbat Shemot	Shabbat Shekalim/Mishpatim/
Friday January 8	Rosh Hodesh Adar
Candle lighting4:12 PM	Friday February 12
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Candle lighting4:55 PM
Saturday January 9	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Tefillah9:30 AM	Saturday February 13
Havdalah5:18 PM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Shabbat Va'era	Havdalah5:58 PM
Friday January 15	Shabbat Zachor/Terumah
Candle lighting4:20 PM	Friday February 19
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Candle lighting5:04 PM
Saturday January 16	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Tefillah9:30 AM	Saturday February 20
Havdalah5:25 PM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Shabbat Bo	Havdalah6:06 PM
Friday January 22	Fast of Esther
Candle lighting4:28 PM	Thursday February 25
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Fast begins at 5:12 AM and ends at 6:12 PM
Saturday January 23	
Tefillah9:30 AM	Purim
Havdalah	Thursday February 25
	Reading of Megillat Esther6:30 PM
Tu B'Shevat	Chalabet Tetrovals
Thursday, January 28	Shabbat Tetzaveh
Shabbat BeShallach	Friday February 26
	Candle lighting5:13 PM
Friday January 29	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Candle lighting4:37 PM	Saturday February 27
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Saturday January 30	Havdalah6:15 PM
Tefillah9:30 AM	
Havdalah5:41 PM	
	nnuary 13 at 7:30 PM ebruary 10 at 7:30 PM

These will be virtual (Zoom) meetings. Watch your email for instructions.



Women of ATC

Shalom!

Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone. We hope your Chanukah was filled with memorable family moments, even virtually. Hopefully the light of Chanukah will spread peace and health to all.

Dues are \$25 this year.

Congratulations to Ellen Nager and Diane Goldberg, winners of the two \$25.00 gift cards. It is never too late to join and support Women of ATC and enable us to support our Shul and continue our events through the pandemic.

Our exercise group has now participated in more than 100 lessons in our program. We all agree that we feel much better and also enjoy meeting with friends each weekday morning. Please let me know if you would like to participate, even if only a few days a week. There are more than twenty woman participating.

Our Rosh Chodesh Group and Book Club continue to meet. Our next book is The Noel Letters, by Richard Paul Evans. We will meet on Thursday, February 18th to discuss it.

Watch for news of the Tu B'Shevat Seder and Purim Celebration.

Please contact Beverly Barbell at bbarbell@aol.com for cards for all occasions.

Please contact me with any suggestions.

Stay safe and well.

Madeleine Lewis Cindy Smith

Co-Presidents

Levy Chapel Fund

Bev Barbell and Al Gersin, in honor of Annalise Hait's accomplishments as a Bat Mitzvah

Anonymous

Donations received after December 21st will be acknowledged in the next issue.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael Vodkin, in memory of beloved brother, Larry Michael Vodkin, in memory of beloved sister, Linda

Dale Appel, in memory of beloved mother, Iris Katz Cohen

Ina and Gary Winer, in memory of our fathers, Tedd Cohen and Sam Winer

Larry Perlmutter, in beloved memory of Nathan Perlmutter

Diane and Ed Thaler, in memory of Hyman Drukman

Edie Bottner and Jeff Yenof, in memory of Miriam Grubert

Linda and Stanley Levine, in memory of our family

Roz and Arnie Goralnick, in memory of Samuel Goralnick

Bev and Hap Leven, in memory of Vicki Waxman

Diane and Ed Thaler, in memory of Miriam Grubert

Johanna Skilling, in memory of parents, Reuben and Elly Herman

Linda Rudman and family, in memory of beloved daughter, sister, mother and aunt, Jodi Goldberg

Linda Rudman and family, in memory of beloved sister-in-law and aunt, Ann-Carol Lipshires

Tina and Arthur Mallock, in memory of beloved father, Harold Mallock

Millie Berman in memory of beloved brother in law, Leo Weiner (husband of her sister, Rhoda, and father of her niece, Faith)

Marilyn and Marty Franklin, with great thanks

Linda Rudman, in memory of beloved brother, Arnie Lipshires

Donations received after December 21st will be acknowledged in the next issue.



Finishing the basement?
Use ATC scrip ...

It's a Mitzvah!





ANNOUNCES



The Judaica Shops of ATC

SINCE 1920

Coming in February 2021, a new look, a new experience, as Sisterhood's Women of ATC will now offer "The Judaica Shops of ATC".

Our new online stores features an interactive, user-friendly interface, allowing customers to easily view thousands of different products, any time of day or night. With vendors such as The Mezzuzahstore.com, TraditionsJewishGifts.Com (you must have been in their store on W. Sample Rd., in Pompano Beach — next to NY Pickle), and JudaicaWebstore.com, The Judaica Shops of ATC offers extensive lines of Judaica, jewelry, Judaica, home décor and art, books, music, movies, software, and Dead Sea cosmetics, as well as Israeli wines and food and special ranges of gift items. Our fabulous products offered come from some of Israel's best known international retailers like AHAVA Dead Sea skincare, Yarden wines and Nadav Art silverworks, and from the country's most celebrated artists like Yair Emanuel, David Gerstein, and dozens of others.

We want to make The Judaica Shops of ATC your one-stop Judaica source.



President's Message (cont.)

Through all of this, we may feel a greater need for community, spirituality, and Jewish education than ever before. Rabbi J, Madeleine Lewis, and a group of volunteers sense this. We have risen to the occasion, working day and night, often without any breaks, to bring you the best of ATC, despite all the constraints the pandemic imposes upon us. It has been a remarkable year.

Over the course of the last year, even as the pandemic took hold and uprooted all of our lives, ATC has relentlessly, almost in spite of the virus, moved forward.

At the outset, we recognized the threat and importance of the situation. We made the difficult decision to close our building. But we did not close our school or our synagogue. Instead, we took them online. We did not stop; we did not give up. Although we had never done this before, and although we had no experience dealing with a pandemic, we quickly transitioned. Teachers, students, and their parents quickly learned how to use the technology and Religious School studies continued. We learned many lessons on how to deliver elementary education through a computer, iPad, or phone, but again we adapted, we grew from our mistakes and held on to our successes. This school year, our platform is more sophisticated and better than ever.

Rabbi J and Madeleine Lewis developed robust online programming, providing learning and entertainment opportunities galore. It seems there is something for everyone. Torah study, our evening Minyan, weekly Parsha, and Shabbat Services are all online. In addition we have daily exercise, Alan Jacobson's Mindfulness classes, monthly Rosh Chodesh, nutrition and cooking demonstrations, crocheting, Talmud Bites, Rabbi Sacks' classes, Chanukah class, our First Responder Thank you Service, Religious School Class Service, Challah bags, Tuesday evenings with Rabbis J, Torah Live Classes, Sisterhood Shabbat, Women's Seder, Passover Family Seder, our religious school's Commencement Service, Israel Independence Day, Yom HaShoah, and Shavuot are just a few programs for our members and friends. To date we have broadcast over 875 original programs at Most of all, our most important element of ATC! programming is our evening Minyan. Please, never think someone else may be attending, everyone is welcomed to attend. It is the basic Mitzvah. Just record 'Chronicle' or 'Jeopardy' and view at 8:00 pm.

But first we all learned to use Zoom, Zoom Shabbat, Zoom Torah Study, Zoom everything. We held board meetings, executive committee meetings, team meetings, webinars, school, all of these on Zoom. The world changed and we adapted.

The Fall approached, and came the High Holidays, an example of what ATC is all about. We brought to our local and global community Rabbi J, Hazan Dan, and Ahavath Torah, with viewers throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel. ATC had to respond, we had to adapt, and we did.

Now we begin to look forward to a re-opening, hopefully mid-year, and we must continue to move forward because that is the ATC way. We cannot, must not, let this relatively short detour in our lives hinder our progress. Events are being planned now for virtual holidays, entertainment, and fundraising. Dr. Alan Lader and our Re-Opening Team have begun to plan for this day to come.

Just weeks ago, the Chanukah season gave a different meaning than in past years. Thanks to Zoom, each night a family recited candle lighting blessing prior to Minyan. Our 6th annual Community Dinner was postponed. However, ATC provided over \$1,200.00 to Stoughton Police to provide presents for children. ATC still was able to provide a Holiday Dinner on December 25 to Stoughton's finest first responders. Donations of food were provided to Jewish Family Table, and the Ilse Marks Food Pantry of Stoughton. And our students created Chanukah cards for patients at The Copley of Stoughton. ATC did not miss a beat.

Watch for our events and holidays for the first half of 2021. Purchase a Sh'lach Manot bag or bags for Purim, join in with our Women of ATC Friday evening Service or Passover Seder. Not to mention our Family Passover Seder, a tradition since 2019.

In addition to our reopening, our Building and Grounds Team are in progress of planning a capital campaign, to begin this Spring for the replacement of our main entry doors and to remove the garden in front of the entry, to place seating and planters. Now, some reading this may question why we would want to start a capital campaign amidst the economic crisis the pandemic has caused for so many. And it is an honest question indeed.



President's Message (cont.)

But here are four things we know:

- (a) Delaying this campaign would be damaging to the building. We've known for years that the doors have been decaying. The garden was never constructed with drainage, and damage has been occurring since day 1 of construction 50 years ago. This project would remove a portion of the wall, allowing drainage from the building, not into the building, and delaying longer would make the project more expensive than it needs to be.
- (b) We owe it to our children to give them this incredible facility to learn, play, and grow.
- (c) We know that this pandemic and it's economic impact won't last forever, and we have faith that better, more stable economic times are right around the corner.
- (d) And finally, we also remain committed to house the most vibrant, thriving, and engaging Jewish community in the South Shore to provide our families with a center for Jewish life, and to enrich ATC and the broader community with cultural and social, and religious opportunities.

Ahavath Torah Congregation's future remains bright thanks to the combined light from all of you that shines on our community every single day.

Thank you all for your time, effort, and support.

Robert Bornstein

President president@atorah.org

For all your grocery shopping



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!

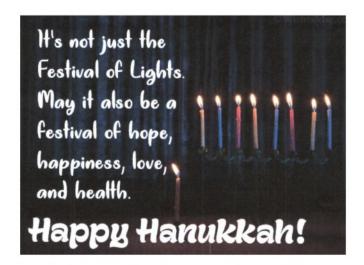


Finishing the basement?

Use ATC scrip ...

It's a Mitzvah!





Our religious school students created Chanukah cards for the Jewish residents at The Copley at Stoughton.







Merry Christmas

Stoughton Police and Fire Departments

ATC continues to serve our community! 2020 is the 6th year that we thank our Stoughton First Responders with a Christmas Dinner.

The Police Department was served dinner on Erev Christmas, followed by the Fire department on Christmas Day. A complete turkey dinner featuring a farm-to table artisan salad, slowly roasted, herbed whole turkey, homemade dressing (you could *kvell*), turkey gravy, a medley of sauteed vegetables, our ATC baked apple pie, those hot dinner rolls, and 'all the fixins'.

A big thank you to our Community Dinner Team for sponsoring the dinner and the culinary staff at ATC.











Tu B'Shvat



Tu B'Shvat January 28, 2021

Upcoming Holidays.... Watch for more information

New Year for the Trees – how to celebrate our connection to the environment and appreciate the fruits of the Land of Israel. Join our Seder at 7:00 pm

Purim February 25-26, 2021

The Holiday of Joy -- **dress up** and celebrate G-d's hidden miracles, while remembering how the Jews of Persia narrowly escaped annihilation thanks to the bravery of Oueen Esther. Services begin at 6:45 PM on the 25th.

Women of ATC Shabbat Service March 5, 2021

Each year, the members of ATC's sisterhood celebrates their 1919 founding with a special Shabbat service.

March 27- April 4, 2021 Passover Women's Seder March 17, 2021 Virtual Passover Seder March 28, 2021 Yizkor Service April 4, 2021

Counting the Omer March 29-May 16, 2021

Count 50 days until the Torah was given at Mount Sinai, preparing for the big event with a program of introspection and selfimprovement.

Yom HaShoah, April 8, 2021

Holocaust Remembrance Day Israel honors the memory of the Six Million by learning about their

heroism in the face of inhumanity and exploring the roots of anti-Semitism.

Israel Memorial Day April 14, 2021 Giving one's life in defense of the Jewish people is a mitzvah of the

highest order.

Israel Independence Day April 15, 2021

The historic return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is a modern miracle.

Shavuot May 16-18, 2021

The Day the Torah was given -- celebrating the monumental encounter between G-d and the Israelites at Mount Sinai, an event which changed mankind forever.

Tisha B'Av July 17-18, 2021

A major Fast Day -- remembering the day when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, not once but twice.



Sisterhood



















Every Jewish home needs a fantastic Mezuzah crowning the doorpost, so get yours from ATC



Watch for our sale in January!!!!

Interior and Exterior Faux Finishes



RON WELLS
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Rabbi Gerson South Area Religious School News

Shalom!

Religious School is progressing nicely.

I am so proud of our students. Our discussions are always filled with interesting and well thought out responses. Prayer studies and Hebrew reading show much improvement.

Our Class Service was excellent. The students all practiced and learned their parts. They performed beautifully in a difficult situation. We are looking forward to a Kabbalat Shabbat Service when the days are longer.

The students expressed why they are proud to be Jewish. The older children each chose a "hero" and described his or her accomplishment and what they dedicated their life to. Then we heard what the student learned from the person they chose.

We celebrated Chanukah with history lessons, songs, videos, blessings, stories, art projects and special snacks. The light of Chanukah definitely reached our students.

Our Religious School families each led us as we lit our Chanukah candles each night.

Our third graders continue to make me proud as their Hebrew reading skills grow. We have added Aleinu to the prayers we practice at each class. We continue our studies of Jewish history with Abraham and Isaac. After the break, we will begin our study of Mitzvot. The older children are of course continuing to improve their Hebrew and prayer skills. Our in-depth study of Aleinu continues through our *Hebrew in Harmony* program. We move on in history, studying Ruth, Samuel, and David. We will continue discussing our Jewish heroes and through studying the



wisdom of our ancestors, learn Jewish values. The student's Hebrew vocabulary continues to grow.

Please help us by giving me the names of anyone who might be interested in joining our School.

Stay well and safe.

Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

B'Shalom,

Madeleine Lewis

Lead Teacher school@atorah.org 781-344-8755

Join us on February 25 at 6:30pm for our virtual ATC Purim celebration! We will perform our traditional Megillah Reading using the daily minyan zoom link (tinyurl.com/ATC-Minyan) We are looking forward to seeing everyone there in costume!

Thanks!



Ahavath Torah Rabbi Gerson and Temple Beth Emunah South Area Religious School



January & February, 2021

Wednesday, January 6th. School Resumes Ketah Aleph

Thursday, January 7th. School Resumes Ketah Bet

Sunday, January 10Th. Religious School Wednesday, January 13th. Religious School Thursday, January 14th. Religious School

Sunday, January 17th. NO Religious School

Wednesday, January 20th. Religious School Thursday, January 21st. Religious School Sunday, January 24th. Religious School

Tu B'Shevat Seder Combined Class

at 10:00 am-11:00am

Religious School

Wednesday, January 27th. Religious School Tu B'Shevat

Thursday, January 28th. Religious School Sunday, January 31st. Religious School Wednesday, February 3rd Religious School Thursday, February 4th. Religious School Sunday, February 7th Religious School

Wednesday, February 10th Religious School Thursday, February 11th

Sunday, February 14th-Sunday, February 21st. No Religious School

Wednesday, February 24th Religious School

Thursday, February 25th Religious School Purim

DRESS UP ATC in your favorite costume at

7:00pm. Parents too! Earn your points TONIGHT!

Sunday, February 28th Religious School



Jewish Heroes I admire

We keep our history alive and the people alive and teach other people

Abraham Szumita chose Yoni Netanyahu



I chose Yoni Netanyahu who dedicated his life to being in the army. Yoni saved people involved in the hijacking of a plane in Uganda. He was the only one who died. I learned that you should try to do the right thing even if it is not the safest.

Noam Grinburg chose Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated her life to the Supreme Court and Women's rights. I learned to never give up and always fight for what is right.



Dustin Edmunds chose Pharaoh's daughter



Pharaoh's daughter found Moses floating in a basket. She brought him to the palace and raised him even though her Father would have wanted the baby to be killed.

I learned that if you see someone in need of help you should help them even if you don't have time and you are not following the rules.

Dylan Slotnick chose Rabbi Abraham Heschel

I chose Rabbi Herschel who marched with Rabbi Martin Luther King in the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. Rabbi Herschel wrote a book called *The Prophets*.

He showed how they were involved in the lives of men.

I learned that no matter what people look like you must believe in them and fight for them when they are right.



Brent Forman chose Sandy Koufax



I chose Sandy Koufax. Sandy Koufax was a Major League baseball player who didn't throw the pitch in the World Series because it was Yom Kippur. I learned that it was more important to practice his religion and show people that he was proud to be Jewish.



What "Mitzvah" means to me

Lending someone something they need.

-Abraham Szumita

Helping someone in need. Giving Tzedakah.

-Noam Grinberg

Sweeping.

-Dustin Edmunds

Helped Dad with the snow.

-Noam Grinberg

Help Mom make cookies.

-Noam Grinberg

Including everyone when playing with friends.

-Noam Grinberg

Help Zayde with jobs. I helped him get down in the basement when he couldn't.

-Dylan Slotnick

Help Aviv find clothes for school.

-Noam Grinberg

Taking out food for Dad.

-Noam Grinberg

I helped my babysitter make my food.

-Noam Grinberg

I helped my Mom get my sis to take the flu shot.

-Dustin Edmunds

I try spreading positivity. I told my friend to try at football.

-Noam Grinberg

Joke around my friends to make us all feel better.

-Dustin Edmunds

Helping my Mom with the snow.

-Abraham Szumita

Being ATC President during a pandemic

-Bob Bornstein





hat does being Jewish mean to me?



Our Religious School students tell how they feel about our culture and religion.

I'm special because I am the only Jewish person in my class. My friend knows how to play the dreidel game too. I also get to go to my Grandma's temple. They sing L'dor L'dor. My Grandma is so proud of me when I say the Sh'ma.

-Devin Alpert

We have special holidays. Me and two other people in my school are Jewish. That makes me special.

I go to my grandma's. When we go there, there's always a holiday going on and we go to her temple and we go on the playground.

-Gabi Abecassis

To always pray.

Go to Religious School as long as you need to and be thankful and love your family. **W**hen I practice Judaism, I feel that I am connected to G-d and that is something big for me.

-Abraham Szumita

I'm special because I celebrate holidays in school that others do not. I'm learning a different language and have a special connection to history.

-Noam Grinberg

It means my family- we go to services
It means our holidays. My favorite is Chanukah.
It means our prayers- Lighting the Chanukah Menorah

-Dustin Edmunds

*F*amily and holidays Shabbat dinners and holidays with Zayde and Bubbe. *P*rayers

-Dylan Slotnick

Saying prayers bonds you to have a better relationship with G-d. It is good to say the Shema before you go to bed and when you get up in the morning.

On the holidays you get together with your family members and celebrate. Your family can help you celebrate and have a bond with G-d.

We keep our history alive and the people alive and teach other people.

-Brent Forman



Coronavirus Update

For those of you who don't know me, I am Alan Lader, a past President of ATC. The purpose of this article is so that I can share with you my knowledge of the vaccines to prevent COVID and to end this pandemic. I have a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science and Physiology, and I have been working in medical science and drug development for 30 years. I have been involved in many drug development programs and have been responsible for running many clinical trials. I have been in meetings with the FDA on many occasions and I am now responsible for leading those meetings. I have also had the opportunity to work with some of the best and brightest scientists and physicians in the field as well as at the FDA.

Like you, I would love to get back to a normal life with everything opened again, especially ATC. However, the only way to get back to normal is to stop the spread of the virus and to end this pandemic. The best way to stop the spread of the virus is by vaccinations. Both Pfizer and Moderna now have a vaccine that has Emergency Use Authorization. In this write-up, I will provide my professional knowledge and insight to help people understand these vaccines.

Both Pfizer and Moderna are using technology that has been in development for over two decades. That is correct, two decades! The technology is easily adaptable to any RNA virus (SARS-CoV-2 is an RNA virus), which is why Moderna and Pfizer were able to create something so fast. Here is a quote from the Conclusion section of a scientific paper I recently read:

"About two decades after the first successful administration of mRNA in vivo, mRNA-based vaccines promise to become a game-changing vaccine technology platform for therapeutic as well as prophylactic applications."

The citation is as follows: RNA Biology 9:11, 1319-1330; November 2012.

Like all drugs, these vaccines had to go through pre-clinical safety testing prior to going into human trials. There were no shortcuts here. All the companies developing a coronavirus vaccine had to go through the safety process just as they would for any other drug. The FDA, however, bumped all COVID related drugs, including these vaccines, to the head of the line. I had several of my non-COVID drugs bumped because of this. However, the data reviews of COVID drugs are still just as rigorous. Furthermore, the safety data being collected as part of the clinical trials has not changed. The expectation is the same and the scrutiny is probably more

intense because of the public "eyes" watching the process.

Both vaccines are designed to make your immune system identify the virus' spike protein. However, each vaccine targets a different part of the spike protein. Currently available vaccine design technology allowed both companies to identify a part of the protein that your immune



system could recognize, then develop the proper RNA sequence to produce a small piece of that protein for your immune system. The technology to do this enabled both companies to have a potential vaccine within weeks of knowing the structure of the spike protein. Because they use similar technology, both vaccines are about 95% effective with no safety signals of concern.

I have received many interesting questions recently about the vaccines. Here are the more common questions that I have received along with answers:

1. What does Emergency Use Authorization mean?

Emergency Use Authorization means that the companies can give their vaccines to people ahead of getting full market approval. However, the clinical trials still have to continue and the pharmaceutical companies cannot market or charge for the product. Here is a link from the FDA website that can provide further information:

https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained

The clinical trials that enabled the Emergency Use Authorization looked at healthy individuals as well as elderly patients and patients with some co-morbidities. Other groups, such as pregnant women, children or immune compromised patients have not yet been evaluated enough to know if the vaccine is safe. We hope to have more data in 2021.

2. How do they know if the vaccine wasn't stored properly? Will it still work?



As a part of the drug development process, we have to report storage temperatures and acceptable ranges. We hear a lot about the cold storage temperatures for these vaccines. We also have to assure that the vaccines remain within these specified temperatures. To do this, the vaccines are always kept in containers were the temperature can be constantly monitored. When they are packaged for shipment, a temperature monitoring device is put into the package. When the package arrives at the receiving facility, that device is checked for any temperature deviations. The result of that check, whether there was a deviation or not, is logged into a reporting form that remains a part of the chain of custody record. The manufacturers or the pharmacists can go back to check these records at any time. The process is detailed in a Pharmacy Manual that is on hand at any location where the vaccine may be shipped from or stored.

Also within the Pharmacy Manual are instructions for what to do if a deviation occurs. Short deviations (for example, one or two minutes) may be permissible. A long deviation (for example, two hours) may require that the vaccine be destroyed. All of this is documented and available to those who need to monitor the process.

3. Can the vaccine make too much spike protein and what will that do to me?

No. The vaccine will not result in too much spike protein. The RNA in the vaccine that is responsible for making the protein is short lived. In fact, all RNA is short lived whether it is natural to your cells or not. The challenge with RNA vaccines was not how to prevent too much, but how to make enough. This problem has been overcome and we now have vaccines that work better than their virus-based vaccines (i.e., live or attenuated virus vaccines).

4. Can this vaccine do damage to my genes?

No. This is because your genes are DNA molecules and these vaccines are made from RNA molecules. Your genes are expressed in a one direction process from DNA to RNA to proteins. In order for this process to go in reverse, several processes must take place. First, the RNA needs to be transported back to the nucleus where the DNA are stored. The RNA in these vaccines do not have the capability to be transported back to the nucleus. Even if the RNA does somehow get back to the nucleus, two more steps need to take place (reverse transcription and integration). Neither of these steps are possible in your cells, even by accident. Therefore, it is physically impossible for these vaccines to alter your genes.

5. How do we know that it is safe given that it was developed so fast?

The process of development really was not that fast. The RNA technology has been in development since the 1990s. RNA based drugs have been used in cancer treatment for several years. RNA based vaccines have been in development for years. What is new is the target of the vaccine, but the drug part is not new. The speed of development of the specific vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 simply took advantage of existing technology already proven to be safe.

As stated above, the coronavirus vaccines still had to go through the same safety evaluations as any other drug. They were still tested in pre-clinical and clinical trials that were done to the same standards that all other drugs are held to. Furthermore, the clinical trials will continue for another few years. The data collected will be used to evaluate long term efficacy as well as safety in specific populations such as immune compromised individuals, pregnant women and children.

6. I already had COVID. Should I still get vaccinated?

This is a conversation that needs to happen between you and your primary care physician. Someone who had a mild case and no experimental treatments may be fine. However, someone who received remdesivir, monoclonal antibodies, or convalescent plasma should not get the vaccine. The effect of the vaccine in these situations still needs to be studied.

7. How long does the immunization from the vaccine last?

The immune response is such that there should be long term immunity. By long term, we think at least a year and probably for many years. The clinical data to support this will be collected during the follow up period of the clinical trials. The question is really, do we need to have a follow up booster in several years from now? We don't know yet, but this is a question that scientists will continue to look into.

I have a great deal of confidence in the safety of these vaccines as well as their efficacy. When I am able to receive it, I have every intention of getting it. I will ask my family to get it as well. For your safety, as well as the safety of your loved ones, as well as our ATC community, I urge you to roll up your sleeves and take the vaccine when it becomes available to you.



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Rob Yunich & Elana Milstein, in honor of Annalise Hait becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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Donations received after December 21st will be acknowledged in the next issue.



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"I learned how wonderful people can be. We found friendship and caring in a very difficult time. ATC showed again how we are there for each other."

-Madeleine

"There's a certain empathy... very deep and we wish each other strength and hope and belief we will somehow get through this and our group has given me that strength."

-Bubbie Millie

"Zoom and this group have helped with the isolation. and connecting on Zoom during Shiva with friends from across the world was very helpful."

-Lynne

"A wonderful sense of community... so lucky to have this."

-Rhoda

"Exercise together, and reconnecting with old friends."

-Sabine

"Blessed by meeting us.. the Women of ATC."

-Gita

"Look forward to our group to chat, exercise and feel good for the day ahead. The support we give each other during this crisis is heartwarming.... and very special."

-Lesley

"Appreciating the family of ATC"

-Bob





On the **Third Day** of Chanukah, the members of ATC help the children of Stoughton

To Diane and Bob Cohn

Thanks again for the generous donations from Ahavath Torah Congregation:

"And just like that, the last of the toys from the Stoughton Police Department's "Fill a Cruiser" toy drive were distributed today. I just wanted to say thank you to everyone that donated this year and a special thank you to Jordan Bros. Seafood, Bill's Detailing Services and the Ahavath Torah Congregation for their generous donations.

Because of everyone's generosity you made this our most successful toy drive yet. In addition to 41 direct requests for help we were able to provide toys, sports equipment and clothing to the following organizations for their holiday giving programs: Stoughton Schools, Stoughton Youth Commission, Stoughton Recreation Department, the Evelyn House, Jubilee Church, Stoughton Holiday of Hope Giving Tree, Old Colony YMCA, Brockton Police Department, Randolph Police Department, Sharon Police Department and Massachusetts Department of Youth Services."

Officer Nate Derby

Stoughton Police Department









Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating in the month of February	
58 years Faina and Roman Burakovsky	February 7, 1963
Members celebrating 50 or more years in 2020	
65 years Dorothy and Benton Abrams	June 19, 1955
62 years Eileen and Stanley Shaffran	June 15, 1958
62 years Libbie and Edward Worobey	June 22, 1958
58 years Barbara and Buddy Marcus	June 17, 1962
57 years Marjorie and Allan Slotnick	March 31, 1963
56 years Nancy and Fred Mark	August 30, 1964
53 years Rona and Steven Baker	June 6, 1967
51 years Merle and Jerald Saval	September 1, 1969
51 years Susan and Norman Gotshalk	August 24, 1969
50 years Diane and Ed Thaler	November 28, 1970
50 years Diane and Bob Cohn	September 20, 1970
50 years Nessa and Steve Wilensky	December 26, 1970
55 years Paula and David Gaffin	July 11, 1965

If your anniversary is not here, it is not in our Shulcloud database. If you would like to be included next time, please notify the office and supply your wedding date. Thank you.

A new generation

ATC welcomes
Lillian Ruth Portnoy,
granddaughter of Phyllis
and Michael Portnoy



Ayla Flanzer

Marcia and Karl Flanzer's granddaughter became a Bat Mitzvah in November

Don't see your anniversary? Have some good news? Please contact the office.



The Fast of Esther

Thursday February 25

The Fast of Esther (*Taanit Esther*) is a dawn-to-nightfall fast held on the day before Purim. It commemorates the fasting of our ancestors in response to the dramatic chain of events that occurred during their exile in the Persian empire. These events are recorded in the Book of Esther, and the salvation that came about at that time is celebrated on the holiday of Purim.

This year the Fast of Esther falls on the day leading into Purim. Purim is celebrated that evening and the following day, February 26. While the fast is generally celebrated on the day before Purim, when Purim is on Sunday, the fast is moved from Shabbat to the preceding Thursday.

The Fast of Esther, or *Ta'anit Esther*, is not one of the four public fasts that was ordained by the prophets. Consequently, we are more lenient in its observance,

particularly when it comes to pregnant women, nursing mothers and others who are weak.

Fasting is associated with some pivotal moments in the Purim narrative. One such moment is when Esther approached King Ahasuerus without permission in an effort to intercede on behalf of the Jewish people. Before she went to the king, she fasted for three days, and asked that all the Jews fast as well.

Another dramatic turnaround occurred on Adar 13 (the default date for the Fast of Esther), the date that Haman had set aside for killing the Jews. Instead the Jewish people soundly trounced their enemies. This triumph was accomplished while the Jews were fasting, as they prayed to G-d that they be successful.



Purim day is filled with the excitement of giving and receiving Mishloach Manot, a small gift of delicious food. A Purim gift of Mishloach Manot adds immensely to the joy and warmth of this holiday.

Watch for our ATC Purim festivities and how YOU can purchase Mishloach Manot baskets for friends, relatives, neighbors, temple presidents, and the list goes on.

PURIM BEGINS FEBRUARY 25





Mah Jongg Fundraiser

2021 Cards

Order early & order extra for family and friends

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED EARLY THIS YEAR

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 2021 CARDS WILL BE MAILED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL

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January Yahrzeit Calendar

January 1

Bessie Corr John Lefkovith James Savas

January 2

Rhoda L. Koritz Paula Landy Rose Paine

January 3

Melvin H. Bloom David Feinstein Thomas Fisher Hilda R. Policow Gertrude Silverman

January 4

Rae Cohen Paul Kaufman Phyllis Shulman Sarah M. Westerman

January 5

Feyga Fisher Harry Keller

January 6

Rebecca Barbell Gladys Safer Jack Shulman Eva Snyder Yetta Steingart

January 7

Alane Mae Freshman

January 8

Harold Sandler

January 9

Samuel Elliot Freshman Pearl Kramer Claire Stuart Nudelman Barbara Triber Silverman Max Waxman

January 10

Rosalind Frederics Celia Gotshalk Coleman Katz Elizabeth Williams

January 11
Lois Levy

Bernard Rubenstein

January 12

Morris Perry Gretta Potter Rosalyn Sandler

January 13

Anita Glickman Robert Gold Joseph Lipshires

January 14

Anne Fisher
Jeff Lewis
Eleanor Libby
Harry Norris
Mildred Seltzer
Linda Sheff

January 15

Solomon Jacobs

January 16

Charles Gabriel Steven Goldberg Abraham Joseph Liansky Anne Saperstein Renee Toochin

January 17

Rabbi Eric Lowenthal Thelma Wilensky

January 18

Myer Bernstein Anna Bornstein Herbert W. Rich Adam Slotnick

January 19

Bella Drukman Alexandra Fisher George Potter Hyman Stickler Louis Tattlebaum

January 20

Irving Bromberg
Nathan Chmara
Herbert L. Weinstein

January 21

Harry Paskind Richard Robinson

January 23

Donald Nesmith

January 24

Helen Jacobs Mildred Koplan Marion Speyer January 25

Hyman Kaminsky Julius Olstein

January 26

Solomon W. Kramer Stanley Myerow Gloria Stroll David Swerdlick Matilda Wolf

January 27

Samuel W. Barbell Jacob Obelsky Gary Rudman Jerome Sallerson

January 28

Eugene Gianelly Yushuo Niyazova Ruth Tapper

January 29

Nathan Flanzer Helen Kahn Harriet Spivack Kay Mary "Mamie" B. Manevitch Shultz

January 30

Sidney D. Nadler Lawrence Saul Rivkin Jacob Smith Muriel Yoffa

January 31

Jeff Carlton Sima Ilyayeva



February Yahrzeit Calendar

February 1
Sonia Carson
Jene Grossman
Charlotte Lerner
Rose Sadow

Elizabeth "Betty" Schwartz

February 2
Rose Kaufman
Harold Mallock
Edward Opper
Samuel Rosenthal

February 3
Isadore Crane
Elliot Goldberg
Rose Lofchie
John Mortadella

February 4
Aaron Harpel
Elizabeth Kitsis
Sara Levenson
Sarah Rubin

*February 5*Joseph Baker

February 6
Abraham Avidon
Esther Feldman

February 7
Stanley Dorsky
Rabbi Henry Gerson
Jeffrey Eric Levitz

February 8
Charles Chapman
Jack Novin
Dr. Celia Schulhoff

*February 9*Ruth Savage

February 10
Freda Erdunast
Michael Guarino, Jr.
Sadie Raphel
Martin Zelbow

*February 11*Abraham Kramer

February 12
Florence Bahm
Gertrude Goodman
Hannah Goodman
Arthur Lifsitz
Hyman Kaminsky
Bessie Olstein
Pearl C. Weinstein
Golda Wish

February 13
Rita Saffer
Edward A. Sandler
Rose Smith
Esther R. Sussman

February 14Francine Metrick

February 15
Hana Faer
Evelyn Figure
Gertrude Kramer
Maurice H. Saval
Linda Sylvia

February 16
Dianne Greenfield
Helen Heller
Bessie Hesed
George Hoffstein

February 17
Herbert L Bornstein
David Feldman
Gladys Safer
Irving Snetsky

February 18
Irma Cohen
Lillian Markofsky
Pearl Pachter

February 19
Sadie Chefitz
George Fisher
Harvey Freedman
Eva Schneiderman
Morris Shultz
Julius L. Sussman
Hyman Wolf

February 20
Gloria Bromberg
Robert Griffing
Louis Silverman
Samuel Steinberg

February 21
Coleman Goldstein
Marvin Steingart
Thea Winter

February 22 Hyman Frank

February 23
Lorraine Olstein
Arnold Warshauer

February 24
Raymond Gootzit
Ruth S. Gootzit
Arlene Kamin
Lina Nogin

February 25
Bonnie Gertrude Goldowsky
Rose Ruderman

February 26
Jeffrey Evenson
Fay Goldstein

February 27
Helen Altman
Minnie Davis
Celia Friedman
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