



December 2023
Kislev - Tevet 5784

ATC Bulletin



Happy Hanukkah!

Ahavath Torah Congregation

1179 Central Street, Stoughton MA 02072

www.atorah.org

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10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Leslie Boyle Helayne Magier

Youth Lesley Bornstein

From our President

Good Day, ATC!

We are all sorry for the delay in our Bulletin. With all the activities which have happened over the past few months, we thought it would be better to wait and provide an up-to-the-minute review of the activities and events and not wait until January.

Well, it has been quite an interesting few months at ATC, the community, the country, and the world.

Wait... where did I write this before? Oy yeah, this sounds so familiar. I remember in 2020, I was saying to all, how I thought being President was so easy.....*then came Covid.*

Now, it's November 2023, and I need not say all the issues facing Jews today.

Over the past weeks, there have been several versions of this month's message I have been working with...none submitted, as the issues and importance of each week's changes.

In keeping with the theme of ever changing, I was just presented with this email that a non-member sent to Diane Cohn.

Diane and Bob reached out to me and I told them to forward it to me for a response.

From:

Date: November 24, 2023 at 5:22:06 PM EST

To:

Subject: Community Christmas Festivities??

Diane,

I wanted to confirm that this was accurate. I'm Jewish and I thought this was a conservative synagogue. Regardless of Reform or Conservative may I ask why is the temple celebrating anything to do with Christianity?

I was looking to join a temple and came across this in your upcoming events. I want to belong to a temple for Judaism and not Christianity. I would like to know a reason because I have never heard of a temple that would ever do that. This seems like a big red flag that this may not be a legitimate synagogue after all.

Thank you.

Obviously the person does not know of ATC. This is my reply...

Mr. _____,

Good morning.

Thank you for taking the time to read about Ahavath Torah Congregation's upcoming events.

continued on page 6



From the Rabbi's Desk

The most obvious symbol of Hanukkah is the Menorah (more correctly - the *Hanukkiyah*) and it is referred to as the Festival of Light (*Chag HaUrim*). Yet Hanukkah is essentially a celebration of a military victory- one that could not have been expected. After all, it was the small non-professional army of the Jews led by the Maccabees against the mighty Greek Empire. Judah the Maccabee is so revered for his military prowess that a statue of him (they don't actually know what he looked like) is at West Point. His innovative guerilla warfare tactics vanquished his mighty enemy. Yet the *Hanukkiyah* still stands out as the most obvious Hanukkah symbol.

I think it has to do with our fascination with light. It is such a special and beautiful symbol and it lends itself to a myriad of interpretations. Light can supplant darkness and show us the right path. Light means education, culture and purposeful living. It has all the metaphors you could think of. One, which the Rabbis loved to focus on, was the fact that the light of a lamp remains undimmed even if you use it to light dozens of wicks and flames. The candles continue to burn just as brightly and warmly as they did before they were used to light another candle. The Rabbis liken that to a *Mitzvah*. When we give of ourselves to others we are not diminished, we do not really lose anything. We give *Tzedakah*, visit the sick, comfort mourners, study Torah or help make a *Minyan* we not only aren't diminished - we are actually strengthened. We feel stronger as a result of the *Mitzvah* we did. Think about it. You may be exhausted when you need to stop by a house to make a *Minyan* but when you leave you are exhilarated that you made the effort. We give generously to the causes that are dear to us and we feel better about who we are and about our community.

There was a great debate in the Talmud about how we should light the *Hanukkiyah*. The Academy of Shammai taught that we should start with 8 and then diminish the light by one each night. The Academy of Hillel taught that we begin with one candle (plus the *Shamash*) and we increase each night by one until all 8 burn on the final night. Hillel's argument obviously won out. Why? Because it is psychologically damaging to see

things as diminishing rather than expanding and growing. Shammai may have been more scientifically correct in that the amount of oil must have diminished with each passing day. But Hillel was psychologically correct in suggesting that a person needs to see his/her world as getting brighter and better with each passing day.



There is a very serious battle going on in the world today between good and evil, and we are caught up in it in every way conceivable. We are Americans and our country and our way of life is under attack. Concomitantly, we are Jews which means our concern for Israel has us in a state of great anxiety. Learn the lessons of the *Hanukkiyah*. Whatever we give for Israel and for our country will only serve to strengthen us - not to diminish us. Know that we are only at the beginning of the struggle. Just the first candle is burning and each successive period of time in this battle against the evils of terrorism will find us lighting additional candles. The Maccabees knew that the day would arrive when they would enter the Temple and liberate it from the 'heathens' who had defiled it. They just weren't sure what day that would be. We light the *Hanukkiyah* - adding a candle each night - to remind ourselves that whatever sacrifices we are called upon to make now will leave us stronger- not weaker - and the day will arrive when the light of freedom and peace will burn brightly for us in America and for our brethren in Israel. And when that happens it will burn brightly and the entire world will bask in the glow and the warmth of the light that it we will bring to the world by bringing terrorism to its knees.

Chag Urim Sameach,
from my family to yours.

Rabbi J

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Women of ATC

Shalom,

Our thoughts and prayers are with Israel.

Our annual Pink Minyan was held on Saturday, October 16th. Thanks to Marge Slotnick for a wonderful program and planning our Pink Kiddush. Thanks to all who participated.

Paid-Up Supper was held on November 8th. It took the work of many people to plan this successful night. Thanks to Diane Goldberg for chairing this event and her committee for the beautiful set-up. Thanks to Bob and his kitchen crew for the delicious food and all their help. Congratulations to all who won prizes.

Our next Book Club meeting will be held virtually at 10:00 AM on Monday, January 15th. We will discuss *Eternal*, by Lisa Scottoline,



Please join us for the Sisterhood Chanukah Party. It will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at ATC. Watch for details.

Please email our Membership Vice President Diane Goldberg at tuppermom0205@msn.com for information about membership.

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

Please email me with any questions or suggestions. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Madeleine Lewis

President
WomenOfATC@atorah.org

Women of ATC Paid-Up Supper

Oh, what a night!!

Seeing old friends...

Making new friends...

Fun conversations...

Sharing lots of good news...

Enjoying great food
(A BIG THANK YOU to ATC men in the kitchen)

And Congratulations to Raffle Winner - Diane Goldberg

Door Prizes went to Sharon Shore and Sabine Dulevskis

Simcha Cake for Marci Steinberg



Thank you for making the Women of ATC Paid-Up Supper such a memorable event.

Being a member of Sisterhood supports ATC.



Women of Ahavath Torah Congregation

Upcoming Events 2023—2024

Wednesday Dec 13	Women of ATC annual Chanukah Party
Monday, January 15	Book Club " <u>Eternal</u> by Lisa Scottoline"
Thursday, January 25	Tu B'Shevat Seder
Thursday, February 8	Adar1 Rosh Chodesh Meeting
Monday, March 25 th	Women of ATC annual Purim Party
Wednesday, April 17 th	Women's Passover Seder
Tuesday, May 8 th	Rosh Chodesh Iyar Meeting
Saturday, May 18 th	Women of ATC Shabbat Service
Monday, May 27 th	The ATC Spring Rummage Sale
Monday, June 17	Rosh Chodesh Sivan Meeting
Wednesday, August 7 th	Av Rosh Chodesh Meeting
Wednesday, September 15 th	Elul Rosh Chodesh Meeting

From our President (continued)

First, may I say, Ahavath Torah IS a highly respected, conservative Jewish synagogue, in Stoughton, MA. I do not know your location, and if you are on the South Shore.

We have been a traditional conservative congregation for over 120 years. Our kitchen works under traditional conservative standards as well.

We are a synagogue based upon serving the South Shore of Massachusetts.

As you mentioned 'upcoming events', here is a short list of our activities. -

- November 12, ATC (Ahavath Torah Congregation), hosted the American Jewish War Veterans, celebrating Veteran's Day, for a second time in recent years. Our attendees included, besides many Jewish War Veterans, members our Massachusetts Congressional delegation, several high-ranking military offices, from all branches, one of the last surviving Tuskegee airmen, directors of the American Jewish War veterans, and the Consulate General of Israel. The Consulate General has participated in several ATC events.
- November 5, ATC hosted a breakfast to promote "Stand With US", an Israeli based organization to educate American Jews about the Hamas-Israeli conflict and history. This event was sold out.
- AND in October, ATC has raised thousands of dollars to assist Israeli organizations providing medical needs and food to those Israeli families with families in need. In need, as we know it, are those families with members in the IDF, terrorized, or assisting families of hostages.
- In years past, ATC hosted Magen David and assisted to provide an ambulance, with "partial" donation by ATC members.
- ATC has a tremendous strong bond with Israel, hosting over the years Israeli dignitaries and events.
- When the IDF seized a boat carrying weapons from Turkey to Gaza, ATC hosted the Israeli Navy Seal Team.
- ATC celebrates Shabbat Across America each year. This year, on March 1, where we will have musical entertainment by Tufts University's Shir Appeal
- When our town's high school needed a 'quiet location' for testing, they called ATC for help. For many years, our social hall served their needs. When our Town needed a location for fund raising events, our Shul provided the necessary means, as their location.
- Each month, ATC provides food donations to Jewish Family Table, and twice a year, ATC has food drives for the Stoughton/Sharon Food pantry though ATC's Project Isaiah.
- Music and Comedy ATC hosted the largest contingent of Boston Comedians ever in one building: including Steve Wright, Bill Burr, Lenny Clarke, Chance Langdon, Jimmy Tingle. AND Blues bands from around the country. We actually are hosting it on December 2, which is listed as an upcoming event.
- As for Christianity and Christmas, Ahavath Torah Congregation does not celebrate this holiday, however, never has, nor ever will. Our office is open on December 25 (except Shabbat). 8 years ago, an elementary school nurse approached us to ask if we could help a family with no means to provide gifts for their children. Upon hearing this, our first and simple question was, "will the local churches assist"? Our answer was they do not. And to this day, they do not.

From our President (continued)

- That year, our members helped 50 Stoughton families that year, without questioning religion, so they had a holiday celebration, with food, entertainment, and gifts. During and after Covid, ATC continues to help families, with the assistance of Stoughton's first responders, The Shriner's Clowns, and numerous town folks (of many religions) to be sure families have a holiday celebration.
- This year, we will be serving some eighty families. We do not ask about their religion, but once again, there will be ATC and members of our community who will cry with satisfaction watching children receiving gifts their families could not afford.
- We do this event for our community. We do this with NO publicity from radio, TV, or print. It was decided at the beginning, not to promote what ATC does for our Stoughton families in need. We want to help, not make this a marketing tool.
- From this, our Stoughton Police department began a toy drive, where ATC assists in both donations and sweat equity.
- ATC provides holiday meals to our first responders, each year, as a thank you for serving our Stoughton community.

As for the trending issue of Anti-Semitism and the safety of our synagogue, we have upgraded our security systems, added new secure doors, provided better secure windows, and established 'safe rooms' for our Jewish members during services. The leadership provides armed security for all shul services and events.

Mr. ____ -

This is only a snapshot of ATC. Similar to your email, seeing a snapshot of our upcoming events.

As for myself, my family is a 34-year member and I am serving as president, for a second time (not term). I am a proud first-generation American Jew, raised Orthodox. I would not be here if ATC is Reform, Reconstruction, or tends to be leaning toward Christianity.

I hope you take my communication as an education, not a criticism. Take a moment and visit our website, by clicking this link <https://www.atorah.org>. OR click our bulletin <https://www.atorah.org/bulletin>. See what we do, and I hope you will become familiar with ATC.

After reviewing our site, and you are interested, please reach out to me, or join us for a Shabbat morning service, each Saturday, beginning at 9:30 am. You will be warmly greeted.

Happy Chanukah and regards to you and family
Robert Bornstein or referred to as Temple Bob

As always, I proofread all emails several times (yes, I do ...sometimes), but as many times I read this email, just to be sure I communicate who we are as a congregation, as a family, the prouder I am to be just a small part of this congregation.

ATC is more than just another house of worship. We stand out as a vital part of this and surrounding communities, providing spiritual, and social leadership.

So, having said ALL of this, let us continue our journey into December and 2024. Join us for our annual Chanukah Party on December 10, join and support our December 17 community event, let us have the largest gathering for Shabbat Across America in March, and let us continue to be ATC.

Temple Bob

Religious School News



Shalom.

Am Yisrael Chai. Our students sing Hatikvah before each class and recite a prayer for Israel and the IDF.

Mazel Tov to Ben Steinberg on becoming a Bar Mitzvah!

Our Kabbalat Shabbat School Service and Oneg was held on

November 3rd. Our students did a wonderful job leading the service with enthusiasm and skill. Thanks to those who joined us to support our students and their families. Our next class service will be held in the Spring.

We will join with the congregation on December 10th for the annual ATC Chanukah Party. Join us at 12:00 PM (after Religious School) for candle lighting, latkes, *sufganiyot*, songs, and crafts for the children.

All our students are continuing in the study of the Torah. The youngest learn the stories and the older ones learn *midrash*, and the lessons the Torah teaches us. As we learn more and more prayers, we learn their meanings and why we say them. Their Hebrew vocabulary is increasing as we read and write Hebrew in each class.

Thanks to our parents for your support and help.

Of course, without the help, knowledge and support of Rabbi J, none of this would be possible.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Please let us know of anyone who is looking for a Religious School for their child.

Let's keep Israel in our hearts and prayers at this time and support our beloved Israel any way you can.

Shalom.

Madeleine Lewis

Ed Director

EdDirector@atorah.org

(781) 801-4527

Thinking Pink



The Women of ATC have been sponsoring a pink event in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month for the last several Octobers. Our Pink Minyan was usually attended by a group of women wearing pink and socializing, presenting readings and poems of encouragement and survivorship, and eating pink desserts. On Zoom during the height of the pandemic, we learned about Sharsheret's work as a Jewish cancer organization supporting women as well as their families and caregivers as they face breast and ovarian cancer.

This year was different-ATC's Pink Shabbat held on Saturday, October 28, involved the entire congregation. Both men and women participated in the service, heard about how the nonprofit c Sharsheret assists all members of the women's cancer community, prayed for our Israeli brothers and sisters in their fight against the Hamas, and enjoyed a Pink Kiddush.

Long buffet tables held an ATC feast starting with salads and ending, of course, with a variety of pink desserts-and even a pink challah! And the proof of a successful congregation-wide event, besides the laughter and noisy conversations was that among the pink scarves, blouses, and dresses, there was a plethora of pink yarmulkes, neckties, and shirts. We thought pink, we ate pink, and we wore pink.

Joan S. Fogel

Women of ATC Acknowledgment Cards

The Women of ATC can send acknowledgment cards for your convenience. Each card gratefully acknowledges that a donation has been made, and is suitable for Condolence, Get Well, Mazel Tov, or most any other occasion.

The cost of each card is \$4.00 if purchased, or \$4.50 if mailed by the Card Coordinator. All proceeds benefit the Women of ATC, which in turn, benefits our congregation.

To learn more, or to have a card sent, please contact Beverly Barbell, by email at BBarbell@aol.com, or by phone at (781) 910-5527.

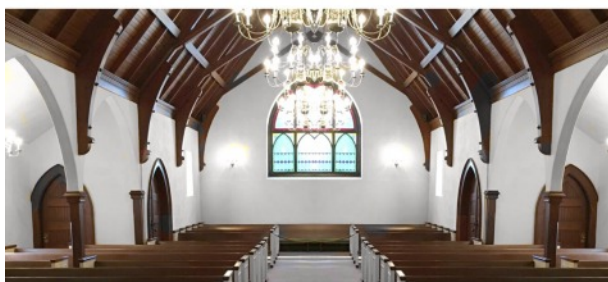
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Alan Paskind, in memory of Sylvia Paskind	Paul & Toby Barbell, in memory of Myer Grubert	Elaine Robinson, in memory of Ruth Robinson
Jason & Laura Goldstein, in memory of Morris Goldstein and Solomon Zeidman	Ronald Wells & Marcia Boland- Wells, in memory of Gayle Cohen Yassen	Mark & Sheila Shoicket
Andrea Cooper, in memory of Jack Cooper	Stanley Levine, in memory of his father, Irving M. Levine	Stuart & Arlene Rosenberg, in memory of Abraham (Al) Feinstein
Lawrence & Janna Gabel, in memory of Joseph Klein and Esther Gabel	Melvin & Rochelle Rosenfield, with thanks for the Yom Kippur Honor	Marvin & Marjorie Rosenstein, in memory of Victor Rosenstein
Paul & Toby Barbell, in memory of Ida Dorothy Goldman, Barnat Goodman and Esther Anne Goldman	Matthew & Marla Potter, in honor of the marriage of Mr. David Rosenberg and his bride Jamie	Robert & Myrna Lipsky, in memory of Greta Kaufman (Eileen Kaufman's sister)
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Charles & Barbara Goodman, in memory of Dorothy Steinberg and Louis Soolman	Jacob Reed, in memory of Mildred Reed	Ronald & Arlene Carter, in memory of Dora Klebanow
Edward & Diane Thaler, in memory of Sadie Thaler	Howard Levenson	Jacob Reed, in memory of Robert Reed & Ruth Beshong
Elaine Musmon, in memory of Esther Young	David & Hilda Egel, in memory of Mildred Kline & Betty Egel	Ronald Wells & Marcia Boland- Wells, in memory of Ann Cohen
Marvin & Marjorie Rosenstein, in memory of Florence Belle Glaser	Paul & Dorna Rosenblatt, in memory of Ruth Rosenblatt & Morris Moskowitz	Michael Vodkin, in memory of Linda Vodkin
Arthur & Tina Mallock, in memory of Enid Mallock	Alan & Anita Ames, in memory of Gussie Fradine Cohen & Ida Kaplowitz Fradine	Helene Fisher, in memory of Thomas Fisher
	Ronald & Arlene Carter, in memory of Irving Carter	Women of ATC
	Michael Vodkin, in memory of Larry Vodkin	



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All,

Family Table
distribution for
December is on
Sunday 12/10.

Caring for Generations
JF&CS
Jewish Family & Children's Service

Please drop off any cans of salmon or boxes of raisins at
ATC before Friday 12/8. Also, the south shore pantry is
low on low sodium vegetable soup so if you can, please
consider this as well. Vegetable only please.

For scrip donation please contact Sheryl Asnes directly at
Spasnes@verizon.net or 781-915-4131

Please Note: As I mentioned last month, David Nankin
has agreed to partner with me moving forward, and will be
doing the collection/distribution during the winter months.
David will be collecting starting in January. So please
look for his notes. You can reach David by his email
stockbulldave@gmail.com

Regards and thanks,

Eliot Rosen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sandy Goldstein, in memory of
beloved parents,
Anna and Morris Goldstein

Sandy Goldstein, in memory of
beloved parents,
Marion and William Kohlberg

Sandy Goldstein' in memory of
beloved husband, Dexter Goldstein

Roz Nadler, with thanks

Roz Nadler, best wishes to
Susan Hausman

Joyce and Danny Goldsmith, best
wishes to Susan Hausman

Elinor Pinkofsky, in memory of
beloved husband, Irvin Pinkofsky

Linda and Warren Keller, in memory
of Gary Keller

Margie Freshman, in memory of
Jean Gould

Carol and Harry Savas, in memory of
Kenny Gersin, son of Al Gersin

ATC Sisterhood, in memory of
Robert Sherman, brother of Alan
Sherman and Phyllis Portnoy

ATC Sisterhood, in memory of
Kenny Gersin, son of Al Gersin

Cheryl and Howard Bloom, in honor
of Dan Bauman

Marc Springer in memory of beloved
sister, Debbie Springer

Barry Levy

Larry Perlmutter, in memory of
beloved father, Nathan Perlmutter

Paula and Bill Manburg, in memory
of beloved mother,
Yvette Feinstein

Barbara Moscovitz, and Lynn
Rawlings wish the Steinberg
family mazel tov, on Ben
becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Paula and Bill Manburg, in memory
of beloved father, David Feinstein

Jacquie and Alan Olans, with thanks
to Rabbi J

Jacquie and Alan Olans, with thanks
to Dan Bauman

pas de deux /də/

noun

A dance for two, especially a dance in ballet consisting of an entrée and adagio, a variation for each dancer, and a coda.

A close relationship between two people or things, as during an activity. The dance can also convey a conflict, a ying-yang or an inner need to approach but at the same time, a desire to avoid.

This poem was written by my late wife, Ceil, shortly after she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She expressed herself in so many ways but this poem, I think, beautifully describes her unwillingness to yield to the disease. She stopped dancing on December 25, 2021. For a shiksa, Ceil was very Jewish. She loved all our holidays. She insisted that Rosh Hashanah and Passover be at our home. Her brisket was out of this world good. She loved to attend the musical events at ATC, too. Even, once in a while, attending services.

She fought it for 11 years, with the help of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-farber.org). If the poem touches you, please consider a small donation in her memory.

Eric Kahn

Ballerina

Cancer dances, advances,
an unsolicited beau.
It struts and prances,
this unwelcome lover
so patient, quiet.
Presuming an intimate embrace.

I am whirling, twirling, swirling,
captive, turning ever faster.
I will learn to master
the madness of this dance,
to dip and bend,
to twirl and whirl and swirl.

For if this must be my music,
this my persistent suitor,
then let me dance.
Let me dance, twirling and turning
but with deliberation and with grace.

Let me find harmony
in this discordant Pas de Deux.

Ceil Kahn

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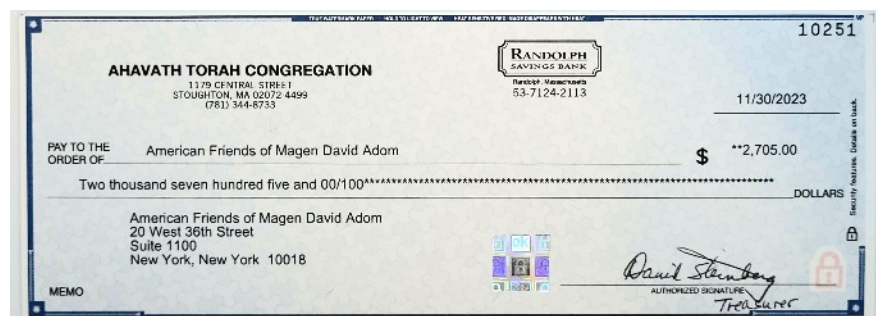
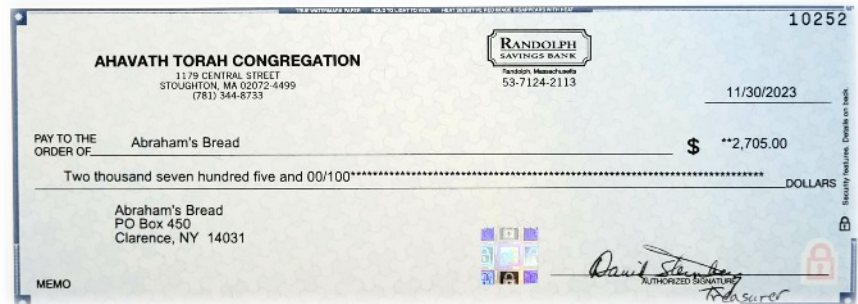
Thanks to the generosity of
the members and friends of
Ahavath Torah,

Aid For Israel
Raffle

these donations
were made to

Abraham's Bread
and

American Friends of
Magen David Adom



Laura and Jay Goldstein, on the birth of their
new grandson, Alexander Leo Perl, born to their
daughter and son-in-law, Beth Goldstein and
Daniel Perl

Linda Rudman, on the birth of her first great
grandson, Cooper James Siden, who was born on
August 24

If you have a family simcha that you would like
the congregation to know about, please let us
know at bulletin@atorah.org.

Stand With Us

On November 4, ATC had the privilege of hosting Charlotte Korchak, Senior Educator at Stand With Us, a non-profit pro-Israel education and advocacy organization established in Los Angeles in 2001 by Roz Rothstein, Jerry Rothstein, and Esther Renzer. Korchak delivered a compelling presentation to our congregants, shedding light on Israel's historical attempts to engage with Hamas, the consistent genocidal responses from Hamas, and the consequential outcomes.

This insightful presentation had a profound impact, and we express our gratitude to Emma Hait, ATC's Youth Member, for her efforts in bringing Charlotte Korchak to our community. Emma attended a Stand With Us conference in Los Angeles last summer where she first encountered Korchak's moving presentation. Emma is currently serving as the International Communications VP through USY, HaNer's USY Regional Communications VP, and the South Area's Chapter President (based in ATC),

We thank Emma and her family.



Calendar

Please note that, as of this printing...

*Weeknight Minyan and Havdalah will be virtual (via Zoom) at the times listed below.
Kabbalat Shabbat will be virtual (via Zoom) at times listed in the bi-monthly e-newsletters.
Saturday morning Shabbat services will take place in person, and also be live-streamed.
Sunday morning minyan services will take place in person whenever possible,
subject to weather conditions at the time, etc.
Zoom link is www.atorah.org/zoom
If you have any questions, please contact the office (781-344-8733 or office@atorah.org).*

Shabbat VaYishlach

Friday December 1

Candle lighting.....3:55 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday December 2

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....5:00 PM

Hanukkah

Thursday December 7

First Candle lit after sundown.....4:51 PM

Shabbat VaYeshev

Hanukkah (Day 2)

Friday December 8

Candle lighting.....3:54 PM
*Light the Hanukkah candles before lighting
the Shabbat candles*

Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday December 9

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....4:59 PM

Shabbat Mikketz

Friday December 15

Candle lighting.....3:55 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday December 16

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....5:01 PM

Fast of the Tenth of Tevet

Fast begins at 5:58 PM and ends at Shabbat

Shabbat VaYigash

Friday December 22

Candle lighting.....3:58 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday December 23

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....5:04 PM

Shabbat VaYechi

Friday December 29

Candle lighting.....4:02 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday December 30

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....5:08 PM

Shabbat Shemot

Friday January 5

Candle lighting.....4:08 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:30 PM

Saturday January 6

Tefillah.....9:30 AM
Havdalah.....6:56 PM

Levy Fund

Marc Springer
Leslie Boyle
Barbara Moskovitz
Anonymous Donation

Our sympathies are with...

Al Gersin and family, on the loss of his beloved son,
Kenneth Gersin
Michelle Glickman and family, on the loss of her beloved
father, Arthur 'Ari' Shapiro



Mah Jongg Fundraiser

2024 Cards

Order early and order extra for family and friends

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 18, 2024

CARDS WILL BE MAILED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL

(mailed directly from Mah Jongg League early April)

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Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

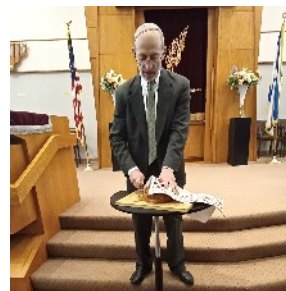
On November 12, Ahavath Torah Congregation supplied the location, and America supplied the best of the best to take part in the Veterans' weekend activities. Giving thanks to our Jewish family of military veterans from World War II to present and celebrating the work of the Jewish War Veterans of America for 129 years, was a very humbling experience.

The evening began with a beautiful rendition of our American and Israeli National Anthems by Sharon and Corey Shore.

The event was hosted by Major Michael Andrew Fish, Esq. (Mike Fish to our ATC family), and Military Chaplain Jonathan Hausman (Rabbi J). A list of National and local dignitaries attended the event. Guest speakers included Representatives Jake Auchincloss and Walter Timilty, Ambassador Meron Rueben, Consular General of the State of Israel to New England, Colonel Julie Hall, USAF, retired, Secretary of Veteran Services, Boston, Robert Santiago. Our keynote speaker for the evening was Brigadier General John Driscoll, United States Army, Retired.

A moving display in our lobby gave praise, honor, and gratitude to those POWs and MIA veterans.

ATC supplied the dinner enjoyed by all following the ceremonies.



The Fast of the Tenth of Tevet/Asarah b'Tevet

The Tenth of Tevet (Heb, Asarah b'Tevet) marks the day on which the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem began in the year 588 BCE, an event which eventually led to the destruction on the Temple in 586 BCE and the first exile from Israel. Though the day usually falls out near the time of Hanukkah, the two holidays have no significant relationship with each other. The Tenth of Tevet is considered a "minor fast" and orthodox Jews refrain from eating or drinking from sunrise to sunset on the day of fasting.

In Israel, the Tenth of Tevet has also come to be marked as a memorial day for the 6 million Jewish victims of the *Shoah*. *Kaddish* is recited on this day for people whose date or place of death during the Holocaust is unknown and that is how the date has gotten the unofficial Hebrew moniker, *Yom Ha-kaddish ha-kleli*, literally translated as The General Kaddish Day.

"And it was in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth (day) of the month, that Nebuchadnetzar, King of Babylon came, he and all his hosts, upon Yerushalayim, and he encamped upon it and built forts around it. And the city came under siege till the eleventh year of King Tzidkiyahu. On the ninth of the month famine was intense in the city, the people had no bread, and the city was breached" (Second Melachim 25).

We see then, that the tenth of Tevet - on which the siege of Jerusalem began, was the beginning of the whole chain of calamities which finally ended with the destruction of the *Beit Hamikdash*/The First Temple.

The essential significance of the fast of the Tenth of Tevet, as well as that of the other fast days, is not primarily the grief and mourning which they evoke. Their aim is rather to awaken the hearts towards repentance; to recall to us, both the evil deeds of our fathers, and our own evil deeds, which caused anguish to befall both them and us and thereby to cause us to return towards the good. As it is said: "And they shall confess their transgressions and the transgressions of

their fathers." (Leviticus 26. Rambam Hilchot Ta'anit Chapter 5). The aim of fasting, therefore, is to subjugate our evil inclination by restriction of pleasure; to open our hearts and stir us to repentance and good deeds through which the gates of Divine mercy might be opened for us.

Therefore, each person is obligated to examine his deeds and to repent during these days. As it is written of the people of Ninveh: "And the Lord saw their actions " (Jonah 3) . . upon which the Rabbis say: "It is not said, He saw their sackcloth and fasting, but rather their actions " (Ta'anit 22). We see hence that the purpose of fasting is repentance.

Therefore, the people, who fast but engage in pointless activities, grasp what is of secondary importance and miss what is essential. Nevertheless, repentance alone without fasting is also insufficient. There is a positive commandment of Rabbinic origin to fast on his day.

The tenth of Tevet can never fall on Shabbat and is the only public fast, which can fall on Erev Shabbat.

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Mah Jongg Tournament

A great time was had on October 22, 2023 as our social hall was filled with men and women gathered together to play Mah Jongg! Everyone was "Cracking" their "Bams" and "Dots", while hoping to get as many "Jokers" as possible! They even enjoyed those "Flowers" blowing through the "Winds"! Thanks to everyone that helped us out! It was a great and successful FUNdraiser for ATC. In addition to the great time at the tournament, we made a valuable impact to the temple community. We are happy to share that the proceeds from the tournament went to the Debbie Springer Memorial Fund. Debbie was a strong supporter of the synagogue and assisted events whenever possible. Thanks again to those of you who helped support this effort. New to Mah Jongg? Haven't played in a while? Dust off your sets or find a friend to teach you and come and join us next time! Upcoming dates are January 28th, April 14th & June 23rd.

Inez Springer & Marilyn Rabinovitz



Jacquie Olans
working with our
young students at
Gan ATC



December Yahrzeit Calendar

December 2

Ida Appel

December 3

Janet Dorsky

Joseph Greenfield

Edith Soroco

December 4

Gabriel Back

Harry Goldman

Mollie Meyerhoff

Sophie Shaffron

Daniel L. Snyder

December 5

J. David Fine

Bernard Goldberg

Sam Grosberg

December 6

Samuel Feinstein

Mae Rebeca Mednick

Albert Miller

Annie Oppen

Linda Vodkin

December 7

Anne L. Cohen

Fay Greene

Ida Katz

Sarah Katz

Bernard Rosenthal

Rose Schlosberg

December 8

Burton R. Levenson

December 9

Steven Ruback

December 10

Alexander Ames

Max Gateman

Richard Levine

Robert Reed

December 11

Albert Dulman

Ethel Rosenthal

December 12

Eugene Denbo

Shirley Lyons

Abraham Worobey

December 13

Benjamin Frank

Beatrice Levitz

Ivan Potter

Abe Shaffran

December 14

George Schwartz

December 15

Ruth Beshong

Abraham Goodman

Sidney Kaufman

December 16

Marilyn Mirliss

Susan Rosenbloom

December 18

William Harry Gammerman

Louis Kisner

Arnold Lipshires

December 19

Melvin Prigot

Betty Shapiro

Bessie Stacey

Mary Wittenberg

December 20

Leonard Miller

December 21

Harry Barson

Michele Koretz-Lester

December 23

Lawrence Russel Kravetz

Samuel Randall

December 24

John Borstell

Sarah Jacobs

Eli Kaminsky

Diane Steinberg

December 25

Dora Klebanow

December 26

Jacob Ruderman

December 27

Louis Borr

Mayer Cretu

Arthur Karp

Daniel Moskovitz

December 28

Rose Barsen

Phyllis Feinstein

William Gabel

Marla Lustbader

Norman Siegel

December 29

Bessie Corr

John Lefkovith

Deborah Springer

December 30

Rhoda L. Koritz

Paula Landy

Rose Paine

Leo Sandler

December 31

Melvin H. Bloom

David Feinstein

Thomas Fisher

Hilda R. Policow

Gertrude Silverman

Roger Eliot Spivack



ATC'S 2023 *music fest*

**Saturday,
December 2**

Doors open at 5:30pm
first band at 6pm



Ahavath Torah Congregation
1179 Central St.
Stoughton MA



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