

January - February 2024 Tevet - Shevat - Adar I 5784

ATC Bulletin

Another Successful ATC Community Christmas Event

In 2016, Ahavath Torah Congregation was approached by the Stoughton Public School System with a *bakasha* (request) - to create a space where people within the community could celebrate the Christmas holiday.

Our congregants got to work. The week before Christmas, ATC served a full turkey dinner with all the fixings in the social hall. Our multi-purpose room was filled with donated items for

families to take home. The *Bimah* was decorated and set for pictures with Santa.

Congregants and community members participated in "adopt -a-child", and Santa was able to distribute gift bags to many families.

Over the years, this *chessed* has grown and shifted to meet the needs of the community. This was year eight, and a year to remember! More than 70 children came through our Christmas drive-thru to see Santa.

The value of *chessed* is seen by many as Judaism's most important ethical virtue, and it's so much more than just kindness. *Chessed* is imagination. It's spirit. It's often described as "giving oneself fully, with love and compassion".

Ahavath Torah Congregation is not just a building in the center of town. It's a central part of the village, committed to doing acts of *chessed* for the

surrounding community.







Ahavath Torah Congregation

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

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Office Administrator Sabine Dulevskis

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From our President

To everyone, Happy New Year and may 2024 be a year of health and happiness.

So, as we begin a new year together, I started to think about this message: should I look ahead to 2024 or, should I look back through 2023.

Well, it's 2024, and some 10 years ago...maybe a bit more, our Shul was planning to merge with several other synagogues, in order to save this



group of synagogues. In the end, this plan did not work out to benefit ATC. To the other synagogues on this committee, ATC gave a visual impression that we occupied a very tiring building, in need of great improvements.

This went on for almost a year, and for the benefit of our members, we decided not to participate. Then, we embarked on a campaign to improve our building.

A very generous donation by the Barry Levy family to honor the memory of Lois, began a process to provide capital funds for the improvement and well being of 1179 Central Street.

From the initial donation, along with many additional, to date, the Levy Capital Improvement Fund for ATC has raised over \$90,000.00. 100% of these dollars have been returned to the Shul. You can see the improvements from the curb appeal, with our landscaping and refurbished stairs. On our upper level, our Lipsky/Levy Chapel, and offices, along with the lower level, all have been supported by this fund. Other ATC families provided funds for our lobby, our entry, banquet chairs, social hall floor, and the new entry benches and planters. With the aid of the Homeland Security Grant, we were able to provide a new more secure entry for our members and guests.

Above all is the sweat equity of members to help with all these improvements. All this makes ATC truly "The Building Our Members Built".

For those who may have missed our December 2 Music Fest, it was a great success. (See pics on page 8 & 9)

Thank you to Rabbi J for his assistance in producing this show. This was not a one-time event. Please watch for upcoming music events in 2024.

Then, MARK YOUR CALENDARS. On March 1, ATC once again hosts Shabbat Across America. Our special guests will be Tufts University's Shir Appeal along with a fine dinner to follow. (See page 11)

Then, MARK THOSE SAME CALENDARS, as we are finalizing plans for a PURIM Evening of Comedy.

From our leadership, our staff, our Rabbi J, Temple Bob, and our families, we hope for a healthy and happy 2024.

Temple Bob





From the Rabbi's Desk

Each of the Holy days of the Jewish Year share characteristics and themes with one another. At the same time, each carves out its own space in observance and establishes its own dominant thematic line. Purim calls us to the necessity and vitality in the process of memory. One of the central Mitzvot of the day is "Remembering Amalek" (Deuteronomy 25:17-19) connected as it is to Haman. This Mitzvah serves as the linchpin for the Shabbat preceding Purim - Shabbat Zachor, "The Sabbath of Remembering."

Memory is really an incredible gift bestowed upon mankind. Its use keeps life from becoming a meaningless procession of unconnected events and unrelated episodes. It permits us to take the past and make it part of present reality, and to take the present and anticipate in it the future. All of our experiences - what we see and hear, the joys and the sorrows - would become mere pictures projected upon life's screen for a few fleeting moments which would subsequently fade into oblivion were it not for the recall power of memory.

What is the history of people, nation or family, if not the common memories etched deeply in the collective mind and transmitted from individual to individual! The Jewish person has always understood the need to remember and to transmit to future generations the significance of that memory. With every festival, the Jew was reminded of the past, and called to the impact of that past on present and future.

As individuals, we are fortunate that we can remember the warm, embracing rays of the summer's sun even in the midst of February winds, to hear a melody, to feel the glow of happiness, to relish a moving relationship, long after the actual experience has faded from the scene. It is encouraging memory of the good in life that moves us into tomorrow with a sense of anticipation and excitement rather than dread and apprehension.

It must be admitted; memory does not always bring joy. It frequently serves to illuminate some dark corner of the past that we feel would be the best served by remaining in obscurity. Yet, even under these circumstances memory has its role to play. The mature person develops a sense of humility from the failures of



the past, and is made that much more aware of the price the mere act of living demands of us. On Purim, the Jew remembers all the threats to Jewish survival in the past, and is that much more appreciative that the Jewish people still survives.

The letters of the Hebrew word Lishkoach meaning "to forget," can be rearranged to spell Lachashoch "to darken." Forgetfulness is to obliterate the past, losing all the possible joy or growth in what has been; memory is to take those same experiences and illuminate the future. To remember is what marks us as humans beings. May we use that power well.

Chag Purim Sameach.

Rabbi J

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Women of ATC

Shalom!

Our Sisterhood members enjoyed a wonderful Chanukah party. Thank you to all those who made it possible.

Our Book Club will meet on Monday, January 15th virtually to discuss *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline at 10:00 AM. Please join us.



On Wednesday, January 24th, at 11:00 AM our Tu B'Shevat Seder will be held in the Social Hall at ATC.

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

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

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or questions.

Am Yisroel Chai!

Stay safe and be well,

Madeleine Lewis

President WomenOfATC@atorah.org

Tu B'Shevat

Hillel and his disciples declared the 15th of *Shevat/Tu B'Shevat*, which falls on January 25 this year, a semiholiday. It is colloquially known as *Rosh HaShana La'Ilanot* (New Year for Trees) because, by this day in the land of Israel, the annual rains have ended and a new cycle of tree growth begins.

Tu B'Shevat is celebrated by the eating of various fruits, especially the produce of the land of Israel. In Israel today, schoolchildren plant trees and are treated with bokser (carob) to eat.

Mah Jongg Tournament and Jamboree

Sunday, January 28 at 1 PM



Invite your friends! Meet new players! Cash prizes and raffles! \$30/player.

- 3 rounds of 4 games
- Welcome coffee & nosh
- Mid-round light luncheon & refreshments
- Choice of tournament or novice play seating

Reservations due by January 14, 2024. Please bring your own Mah Jongg set.

How to make your reservations:

Email Marilyn (marilyn.rab@gmail.com) or Inez (isy124@msn.com) and include your name, phone number, and preference of being seating at a Tournament Skill Table or a Novice Table.

Cost:

\$30 per person, payment should be made payable to Ahavath Torah Congregation (memo: Mah Jongg Tournament). Mail your check to ATC, 1179 Central St. Stoughton, MA 02072.



Finishing the basement?

Use ATC scrip ...

It's a Mitzvah!



Religious School News



Shalom!

Hope you all enjoyed your Chanukah celebrations. Our Chanukah party was enjoyed by all and it was great to see everyone there. We had a candle lighting ceremony and some songs, sang Hatikvah while the children marched with Israeli flags, wonderful food, exciting crafts, a bouncy

house, and a basketball game provided by Steve Steinberg.

Thanks to all who helped make this a success and to those who attended.

On Sunday, January 21st, we will hold our Religious School Tu B'Shevat Seder.

Our families will enjoy many fruits that symbolize this holiday.

On February 4th, the children will participate in a scavenger hunt.

Tu BeShevat and its customs will be talked about and explained.

We will begin to learn about Israel after the upcoming break. We will talk about the history of this amazing country and learn about its people, places and events.

The students will continue to to learn prayers, Bible history, Hebrew reading and writing and vocabulary. It is such a pleasure to see the progress they are making.

Thank you to our families for their support and cooperation. Thanks to Rabbi J, Faith, Lesley, and Bob for all they do.

Stay safe and be well. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Am Yisroel Chai!

Madeleine Lewis
Ed Director
EdDirector@atorah.org
(781) 801-4527

High Holiday Prayer Book Dedications

Lesley and Bob Bornstein, in honor of the births of Sophie and Emerson (Olans) Klappholz

Lisa Zeidman, in loving memory of Morton, Marcia, and Debra Zeidman

Jolyon and Dorothy Spivack, in loving memory of Eric Spivack

Barbara Moskovitz, in loving memory of Daniel and Myrtle Moskovitz

Nancy and Bruce Sarnowitz, in honor of our grandson Henry Marshall Sarnowitz

Stacy and Howard Andler, in loving memory of David Sloane

Susan and Rabbi Jonathan Hausman, in loving memory of Joan and Harold Komisar

Stacy and Howard Andler, in loving memory of Kenny Gersin

Tina and Arthur Mallock, in loving memory of Ken Gersin

Leslie Boyle and Myron Smith, in loving memory of Kenny Gersin

Stacy and Howard Andler, in loving memory of Beth Fellman

Tina and Arthur Mallock, in loving memory of Arthur "Ari" Shapiro

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.



Donations

Richard & Irene Goldman, in memory of Harry Goldman

Warren & Linda Keller, in memory of Harry Keller

Andrea Cooper, in memory of Barbara Schwartz

Paul & Toby Barbell, in memory of Rebecca Barbell & Samuel W. Barbell Linda Rudman, in memory of Ann-Carol Lipshires, Jodi Goldberg & Arnold Lipshires

Alan & Anita Ames, in memory of Alexander Ames

Beverly Barbell & Al Gersin, in memory of Samuel W. Barbell & Rebecca Barbell

Arnold Solod, in memory of Myrna Solod

Roslyn Nadler, in memory of Sidney D. Nadler

Richard & Lynda Levine, in memory of Richard J. Levine

Robert & Myrna Lipsky

Alan & Judy Litwack, in memory of Phyllis Shulman & Jack Shulman

Marc & Joyce Goldstein, in memory of Arthur Karp



Finishing the basement?

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Levy Fund

Sharon Rabinovitz, in memory of Millie Berman Barry Levy and family, in memory of Lois Levy



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Deborah Springer Memorial Fund

Leslie Boyle

Marcia Boland-Wells and Ron Wells

Steve Niers

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sharon and Carl Rabinovitz

Janis and Marty Sklar, with thanks for Harvey Sklar's successful surgery and recovery

Kim and Dean Thornton

For all your grocery shopping



use ATC scrip ...



It's a Mitzvah!



THE BROTHERHOOD OF ATC PRESENTS THE 17TH ANNUAL SCOTCH DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH FROM 7:00 - 11:00 P.M.

The Brotherhood of <u>Ahavath Torah Congregation</u> cordially invites you to our 17th Annual Scotch Dinner.

This will be a fantastic evening including a large selection of fine Single Malt Scotches, classic Bourbons, a gourmet dinner, music, raffles, door prizes

... plus much, much more.

There will be limited seating for only 90 people so be sure to make your reservations now.

The cost is \$90.00 per person and advanced reservations are definitely required.

Reservations will be accepted until Wednesday, February 28th or until we sell out.

You must be of legal drinking to attend and only confirmed reservation holders will be admitted.

RSVP by e-mail to David Schulze at davidschulze47@gmail.com

We can accept cash, checks, credit cards or Venmo

prepayment is expected



Ahavath Torah Congregation – 1179 Central Street – Stoughton, MA



Steve and Marci Steinberg, on their son, Benjamin, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

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







ATC'S 2023 music fest

Saturday, December 2

Performances by

Boston Baked Blues Soul Box The Delta Generators











Oh, What a Night!









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 Shemot	Shabbat Rosh Hodesh/Mishpatim
Friday January 5	Friday February 9
Candle lighting4:08 PM	Candle lighting4:50 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Saturday January 6	Saturday February 10
Tefillah9:30 AM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Havdalah5:14 PM	Havdalah5:53 PM
Shabbat VaY'era	Shabbat Terumah
Friday January 12	Friday February 16
Candle lighting4:15 PM	Candle lighting4:59 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Saturday January 13	Saturday February 17
Tefillah9:30 AM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Havdalah5:21 PM	Havdalah6:02 PM
Shabbat Bo	Shabbat Tetzaveh
Friday January 19	Friday February 23
Candle lighting4:24 PM	Candle lighting5:08 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM
Saturday January 20	Saturday February 24
Tefillah9:30 AM	Tefillah9:30 AM
Havdalah5:29 PM	Havdalah6:10 PM
Shabbat BeShallach	Shabbat Ki Tissa
Friday January 26	Friday March 1
Candle lighting4:32 PM	Candle lighting5:17 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat6:00 PM
Saturday January 27	Dinner (by paid reservation) to follow
Tefillah9:30 AM	
Havdalah5:37 PM	Shabbat Across America featuring Tufts University's Shir Appeal
Shabbat Yitro	Saturday March 2
Friday February 2	Tefillah9:30 AM
Candle lighting4:41 PM	Havdalah
Kabbalat Shabbat7:30 PM	224 - 64242
Saturday February 3	
Tefillah9:30 AM	
Havdalah5:45 PM	



SAVE THIS DATE!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



From Kasha to Kishke

ATC will have something for everyone ...and so much more, as we will remember those great old New England Jewish Delicatessens

Friday, March 1, 2024

Services to begin at 6:00 PM Dinner (by paid reservation only) to follow

Our special guests
Tufts University's Shir Appeal







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)

_ State:Zip:
Cell:
X \$14 each \$
X \$15 each \$

Make checks payable to:

Rabbi Gerson South Area Religious School (RGSARS)

Mail to:

Helayne Magier, 28 Cherrywood Drive, Stoughton, MA 02072

Any questions please contact Helayne at 781-344-7566



Shabbatasaurus Returns!



Our Second Annual Shabbatasaurus is almost here! If you attended this event last year, you know that it was a RAWRing-good time!

Please join us on Friday, January 12th at 5:30pm for a short child-centered service, followed by dino-rific stories and crafts, and tasty dino-dinner for all! And of course, we'll enjoy a surprise visit from Simon, the Shabbat Dinosaur!

This is a free event, and all are welcome. RSVPs are required.

RSVP: https://www.atorah.org/form/youngfamilyprograms



Our new Hannukiah

It Takes a Village

Our 8th annual Community Christmas Festivities event took place on Sunday, December 17th. The drive-thru was a huge success and couldn't have taken place without the amazing support of our congregation. Volunteers helped in a number of ways--by "adopting a child" and purchasing items on their wish list; by bringing about 142 loaded gift bags upstairs and helping to organize them; and by distributing the bags to the families as they drove up. Donations were received not only from ATC members, but from local businesses and non-ATC members as well.

Thank you. Thank you for all you have done to make this holiday a wonderful one for many. It truly was a team effort.

Community Christmas Festivities Committee

Helayne Magier Diane & Bob Cohn





January Yahrzeit Calendar

January 1

Rae Cohen Paul Kaufman Phyllis Shulman Sarah M. Westerman

January 2

Harry Keller

January 3

Rebecca Barbell Gladys Safer Jack Shulman Eva Snyder

January 5

Harold Sandler

January 6

Pearl Kramer Claire Stuart Nudelman Barbara Triber Silverman Max Waxman

January 7

Celia Gotshalk Coleman Katz Elizabeth Williams

January 8

Mort Lader Lois Levy Bernard Rubenstein

January 9

Marvin Asnes Morris Perry Gretta Potter Rosalyn Sandler January 10

Rosalind Frederics Anita Glickman Robert Gold Joseph Lipshires Willa Rosenthal

January 11

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

January 12

Solomon Jacobs

January 13

Charles Gabriel Steven Goldberg Anne Saperstein Renee Toochin

January 14

Elliott Greene Rabbi Eric Lowenthal Thelma Wilensky

January 15

Myer Bernstein Anna Bornstein Herbert W. Rich Adam Slotnick

January 16

Bella Drukman George Potter Hyman Stickler Louis Tattlebaum January 17

Irving Bromberg Nathan Chmara Herbert L. Weinstein

January 18

Harry Paskind Richard Robinson

January 21

Helen Jacobs Mildred Koplan Marion Speyer

January 22

Julius Olstein

January 23

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

January 24

Samuel W. Barbell Jacob Obelsky Gary Rudman Jerome Sallerson

January 25

Eugene Gianelly Yushuo Niyazova Ruth Tapper January 26

Helen Kahn Nathan Flanzer Harriet Spivack Kay

January 27

Sarah Bornstein Sidney D. Nadler Lawrence Saul Rivkin Jacob Smith Muriel Yoffa

January 28

Jeff Carlton Sima Ilyayeva

January 29

Sonia Carson Jene Grossman Charlotte Lerner Rose Sadow Elizabeth "Betty" Schwartz

January 30

Rose Kaufman Harold Mallock Edward Opper Samuel Rosenthal

January 31

Isadore Crane Elliot Goldberg Rose Lofchie John Mortadella



February Yahrzeit Calendar

February 1

Aaron Harpel Elizabeth Kitsis Sara Levenson Sarah Rubin

February 2

Joseph Baker

February 3

Abraham Avidon Edward DeNapoli Esther Feldman Sandra Shifman

February 4

Stanley Dorsky Rabbi Henry Gerson Dee Levine Jeffrey Eric Levitz

February 5

Charles Chapman Jack Novin Dr. Celia Schulhoff

February 6

Ruth Savage

February 7

Freda Erdunast Michael Guarino, Jr. Martin Zelbow

February 8

Abraham Kramer

February 9

Florence Bahm Gertrude Goodman Hyman Kaminsky Arthur Lifsitz Pearl C. Weinstein Golda Wish

February 10

Rita Saffer Bennette Shultz Rose Smith Esther R. Sussman

February 11

Francine Metrick

February 12

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

February 13

Dianne Greenfield Helen Heller Bessie Hesed George Hoffstein

February 14

Herbert L Bornstein David Feldman Irving Snetsky February 15

Irma Cohen Lillian Markofsky

February 16

Sadie Chefitz George Fisher Harvey Freedman Eva Schneiderman Julius L. Sussman Hyman Wolf

February 17

Robert Griffing Louis Silverman Howard Swerdlick

February 18

Marvin Steingart Thea Winter

February 20

Murray Tenofsky Arnold Warshauer

February 21

Arlene Kamin Lina Nogin

February 22

Rose Ruderman

February 23

Fay Goldstein Lorraine Olstein February 24

Helen Altman Celia Friedman Saul Parker Sylvia Price Jeffrey Weston

February 25

Sylvia Close Joseph Meltzer

February 26

Constance Bernstein Ruth Bornstein George Bress Ethel Carlin William Goldstein

February 27

Eleanor Azerrad Isaac Cohen Mary Halpern Irving Spivack

February 29

Sarah Denbo Marilyn Selby Rose Silverman



