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June, 2009

9 Sivan - 8 Tammuz 5769

President: Mark Lillianfeld

Send bulletin items to:

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Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Susan Prohofsky and Sonya Garfinkel

(June, July & August)

Gratitude, Condolences, and Congratulations

Congratulations to West Lafayette High School Junior, Akiva Sanders, who was recently recognized for superior scholarship by the school. Mazel Tov to Marisa Morin on her forthcoming (June) wedding to Christopher Ellis. A strong vote of gratitude goes to Madelyn Lillianfeld for so capably hosting the sisterhood closing luncheon. Madelyn's brother, Michael, graciously provided items for the raffle. Sheila Wolinsky similarly provided an item for the raffle. Special thanks to

June 2009

Esther Chosnek, for her informative program on growing vegetables, and for providing potted vegetable plants which were both centerpieces and raffle prizes. Thanks to Sam Harris and Ephraim Fischbach for their extraordinary roles in the minyan for the second day of Shavuot. The success was humorously attributed to the work of "two Ph.D.s in Physics." Mebbe so. Mazel Tov to Linda and Mike Lipschutz who are celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in their new residence at Radnor, Pennsylvania. Many thanks to Sonya Garfinkel who readied the 2009-10 calendar to accept assignments for the year. If you haven't signed up to chair an event, there is still time. Call one of the Sisterhood co-presidents. (Yes, it is conceivable that a male might chair or help chair an event.)

Cyrelle Simon to Visit

There will be an Open House for Cyrelle Simon on June 10th at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Herb and Heather Moskowitz. 1430 N. Salisbury St., W. Lafayette. Cyrelle will also attend Shabbat services on June 12th and 13th.

NOTICE: SISTERHOOD BOARD MEETING CHANGED FROM
 WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 TO TUESDAY, JUNE 16

SEE CALENDAR FOR DETAILS.

You're Invited

Can you beat a juicy grilled kosher hot dog or hamburger expertly prepared by the best in the business? Of course not. So, come with a healthy appetite to Happy Hollow Park on Sunday, June 7, at 6 p.m. Details appear on the attached sheet.

Yahrzeits

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Bass, Samuel	Sivan 10	June 2, 2009
Roger, Louis J.	Sivan 10	June 2, 2009
Altman,		
Maynard	Sivan 10	June 2, 2009
Zovod, Eda	Sivan 11	June 3, 2009
Singer, Bessie	Sivan 13	June 5, 2009
Tzucker, Esther	Sivan 15	June 7, 2009
Elkin, Lucille	Sivan 16	June 8, 2009
Barash, Moshe	Sivan 21	June 13, 2009
Brodsky, Jacob	Sivan 21	June 13, 2009
Brown, Ree	Sivan 24	June 16, 2009
Leventhal, Luba	Sivan 27	June 19, 2009
Spector,		
Hannah E.	Sivan 27	June 19, 2009
Meyers, William M.	Sivan 28	June 20, 2009
Paul, Peter	Sivan 28	June 20, 2009
Berger, Goldie	Sivan 29	June 21, 2009
Schreiber, Phyllis	Sivan 30	June 22, 2009
Elkin, Goldie	Tammuz 1	June 23, 2009
Prohofsky, Arthur	Tammuz 1	June 23, 2009
Myers, Anne L.	Tammuz 1	June 23, 2009
Shapiro, Aaron	Tammuz 2	June 24, 2009

Hartman,

Solomon Tammuz 6 June 28, 2009

Roger,

Minnie Tammuz 6 June 28, 2009

Elkin,

Sarah Tammuz 7 June 29, 2009

Spector,

Solomon Tammuz 8 June 30, 2009

Kaplan,

Harry Tammuz 8 June 30, 2009

Prohofsky,

Esther Tammuz 8 June 30, 2009

Lillianfeld,

Bernard Nathan Tammuz 9 July 1, 2009

Mazor, Jeanette Tammuz 10 July 2, 2009

Rabbi's Reflections

“Smile, You're on Candid Camera”

In the television series, Candid Camera, mostly ordinary people, and occasional celebrities, were confronted with unusual, often fabricated, situations, sometimes using trick props. Eventually the prank was revealed, and the unwitting participants were told the famous line, “Smile, you're on Candid Camera.”

Smiling is a great way to face the world. It makes us more attractive, look younger and more successful, changes our mood, helps us to stay positive, is contagious, and causes other people to want to be around us more. Smiling relieves stress, lowers blood pressure, releases endorphins

and serotonin, and boosts the immune system.

In *Pirquei Avot*, *The Rabbis' Maxims* (often, *Ethics of the Fathers*, which we read this time of year), smiling appears twice. In 1:15, *Shammai taught: Make your Torah [study] a fixed practice; say little and do much; and greet every person with a cheerful face.* In 3:16 (in the *siddur*, prayerbook; 12 in the *Talmud*): *Rabbi Yishma'el said: Be compliant to a superior, submissive to government forced service, and greet every person happily.* Others translate the latter as, *Be suppliant to your seniors, affable to your juniors, and greet every person cheerfully.* Because we do not like to see similar sayings as simple restatement, what difference does it make, and what values underlie it?

Elsewhere in *Pirquei Avot* we find underlying values associated with how we treat other people, and some associated with the quoted rabbis, including: loving (1:12), honoring (2:10, 4:1), and not disdainning other people (4:3) (some with Biblical prooftexts and rationales), with the underlying theology that God created human beings in the Divine image (3:18).^{*} In sum, because God created us in the Divine image, we honor other people in all dealings, and one way to show this honor is to smile.

Some differences between Shammai's and Yishma'el's statements appear in context. In Shammai's case, we see a progression from studying *Torah* to doing it, so he warns not just to honor scholars or peers, but everyone. A parallel passage (*Avot de-Rabbi Nathan*) extends this to *tzedaqah* (righteousness and justice, often minimized as charity): no matter how many or fine the gifts, if we give with a downcast face, it does not accrue to our benefit, while if we receive people with a cheerful face, it is to our benefit even if we give nothing. Human dignity counts. Since, in stories, Shammai is short tempered, he may be reminding himself to master anger and arrogance, or repenting of it.⁺ Other commentators discuss rationales, like positive, contagious, socializing, but one says that we must greet all people cheerfully even when we do not want to be cheerful or

cheerful to that person (Rabbi Menahem ben Solomon Ha-Meiri). Maimonides says both our appearance and words must be cheerful. Rabbi Jacob Levinson specifically applies it to the unworthy both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Rabbi Yishma'el's greeting people happily applies not just to people, but even to oppressive governments, which is practical advice that Jews traditionally followed. Others say that it refers to people of all ages. Rabbi Jacob Levinson specifically includes even those people who lack integrity.

It is nice to have observable confirmation that modern science informs us of smiling's benefits. Judaism not only figured out smiling's practical, profitable and utilitarian advantages, and a philosophically beneficial rationale that furthers our own and even society's interests, but a theological reason that goes beyond the beneficial to the altruistic that goes to the very heart of creation.

^{*} In 1:12, we read that Hillel and Shammai make statements, and the first passage appears in this context. Hillel first says: *Be a disciple of Aaron—love peace and pursue peace, love other creatures and draw them to the study of Torah.* In context, both are talking about overall relationships with other people as being the first lesson to learn from studying Torah. In 2:10, Rabbi Eliezer, whose teacher studied under Hillel and Shammai, taught: *Let your fellow's honor be as dear to you as your own.* In any case, this seems to be about the honor which we show others, and one commentator specifically quotes Leviticus 19:18, *Love your neighbor as yourself*, quoting Hillel's parallel version in the *Talmud* 31a, and he quotes a series of Hillel and Shammai stories praising Hillel's patience as opposed to Shammai's short temper (Joseph ben Judah ibn Akinin). Honor also plays a role in 4:1 (which I've quoted before), Ben Zoma taught that the wise learn from everyone, the rich subdue passions, the happy rejoice in their lot in life, and the honored are those who honor other people; and 4:3, *Ben Azzai taught: Do not disdain any person...for every person has his/her hour.* The theological rationale is stated in 3:18: *Rabbi Aqiva taught: Humans are beloved for they were*

created in God's image. They were exceedingly loved for it was made known to them...as it is written, God created the human in the Divine image (Genesis 9:6).

+ Or maybe Shammai was short-tempered only in certain cases, or since Hillel's disciples wrote the stories, they wanted to make their teacher look better.

Have a Look at This: Gleanings from the Web

http://www.ou.org/shabbat_shalom/article/conversion_is_so_not_original An interesting story of a woman from the Dominican Republic and her road to Judaism.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPOqY4QLQco>

is for the football fans in the crowd.

Here is the link for the summer issue of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Next Step Newsletter.

http://www.uscj.org/images/4957_NextStep_SU09_3.pdf

Shul Board Solicits Donations to Special Purpose Funds

The Shul board was recently asked to publicize the various funds to which one can make donations to the Shul. When other funds are established, they will be listed.

The Chosnek Fund, named for **Sam and Edith Chosnek**, is for ritual. For example, the fund could be used to repair or replace such things as Torah covers and the like.

The Elkin Fund, named for **Barry Elkin**, is for educational purposes. It might be used, for example, to pay part of the cost of bringing a speaker.

The 100th Anniversary Fund, established by **Ed Simon**, is for capital expenses in building

maintenance. This fund provides a naming opportunity for remodeling our building.

The recently established Ha Gomel fund is to celebrate recent recoveries from illness.

Sons of Abraham Special Funds Donation Form

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$_____. Please apply it to:

Ha Gomel (recovery) of _____

100th Anniversary Fund (Building) _____

Elkin Fund (education)_____

Chosnek Fund (ritual)_____

Donation in honor / memory

of:_____

Is the donor's name to be held in confidence?_____

Send check with this form to Sons of Abraham

P.O. Box 2671 / West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671.

Donations will be acknowledged.

Donor(s):_____

Address:_____

Gifts Received

In memory of Harriet Berger:

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rodwell

In honor of the 30th wedding anniversary of Joan and Marv Bercovitz:

The Alan Bercovitz and Stewart Families

June Candle Lighting Times

source: Rabbi Rascoe

June 5, 2009: 9:00 PM

June 12, 2009: 9:04 PM

June 19, 2009: 9:06 PM

June 26, 2009: 9:07 PM

Sisterhood Happy Day and Memorial Cards

Sons of Abraham members are invited to participate in the Sisterhood Happy Day and Memorial Card program. For a \$5.00 donation to the Sisterhood, members can have the Sisterhood mail out either a Happy Day or Memorial Card to whomever they wish. To order, call **Iris Treager** (463-2468) or **Sheila Wolinsky** when she is town. When we hear about them, these donations will be listed in the Bulletin.

Recent mailings:

The Sisterhood is grateful for a generous donation made by Claire Cohen in memory of Harriet Berger.

Shul Board to Meet

The Board of Directors of the Shul will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18 at the Shul. Meetings are open to members of the Shul.

June Calendar

June 5 - 7: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette.

June 5: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service.

June 6: Sat. 10: 00 a.m. Shabbat morning service.

June 7: Sun. 6:00 p.m. Shul Picnic Happy Hollow Park

June 10: Wednesday. Open House for Cyrelle Simon (see page one).

June 12: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service.

June 13: Sat., 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning service

June 16: Tues., 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting. Home of Esther Chosnek. **NOTE CHANGED DATE**

June 18: Thurs., 8:00 p.m. Shul Board Meeting

June 19 - 21 Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette.

June 19: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service.

June 20: Sat., 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning service

June 26: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service.

June 27: Sat., 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning service

THE YIDDISHER KOPF

forwarded by Alan Beck

An observant Jew who lived on Park Avenue, built a Sukkah on his balcony.

Some of his 'high society' non-Jewish neighbors brought him to court. They claimed that the Sukkah on his balcony was an eyesore and was having a negative impact on the value of their homes in this posh neighborhood.

In court, the man was very worried about the outcome. It was the eve of the eight-day holiday, leaving him no time to make alternative arrangements, in case the judge ordered him to take down the Sukkah. He prayed for help. And Hashem listened.

Judge Ginsburg, who was Jewish himself, had a reputation of being a very wise man.

After hearing both sides, he turned around to the observant Jew and scolded him: "Don't you realize that you live on Park Avenue, and not in Brooklyn?"

There is a certain decorum which is expected on Park Avenue. You have no right to be putting up an ugly hut on this lovely street without a building permit authorizing it. I hereby rule that either you remove the hut, or I will fine you one thousand dollars . . .

You have exactly eight days to do so! Next case!"

An Update from Rabbi Rascoe

Marcy's latest report showed her tumor free. Mastectomy (possibly double) is in early June.

My youngest son Daniel is in a rock band (not Jewish) called Versecity. They reached the national final five in the Hardrock Cafe Battle of the Bands. The winner flies to London and performs on the same bill with Bruce Springsteen, The E Street Band, Neil Young, Dave Matthews Band, and The Killers. If you don't mind helping, the winner is picked by a national vote. You only can vote once. You do need to supply a name, e-mail address, and zipcode, but you can opt out of e-mails from the Hard Rock Cafe. The address is: <http://battle.ambassadorsofrocks.com>

Avi moves tomorrow and starts Univ of MT in the fall. He'll store his stuff in Benton Harbor

Ariel Cember Graduates

In the next column, you see a picture of Sylvia Cember's grandson, Ariel, who just graduated summa cum laude with two BS degrees from IU's Kelly School of Business, one in computer information technology and the other in supply chain management. He is with his proud parents, Sylvia's son, Michael, and his wife, Robin.



Neil Zimmerman, Ariel's uncle by marriage, sent this photo.

Shai Hadashi Graduates

Shai Hadashi (Leah's husband) has graduated from Purdue. The information we have identifies him as a computer specialist.

Jeremy Cowles Graduates

Jeremy Cowles (Hannah's husband) completed a Master's Degree at De Paul University, Chicago, in a computer-related field.

Mazel tov to the entire Cember clan.

**Sunday, June 7th
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Happy Hollow Park
Shelter No. 3**

All Congregation Sons of Abraham members, families and friends are cordially invited to the annual Shul picnic. Sisterhood will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, drinks, ice and tableware. You are asked to please bring a salad, side dish, dessert, fruit or chips, and any needed SERVING UTENSIL. Everything must be KOSHER and PAREVE. Of course, we'd also like you to bring a good appetite, good jokes and stories, and lots of giggles, laughs and smiles!

Please do not bring food containing dairy products.

Don't bother to RSVP. No one ever does! However, if you have a question, call Harriet Diamond, 463-1416 or Jo Gartenhaus, 474-6562.

The more the merrier, so come and have a good time!

Remember to bring Frisbees, balls and mitts, and other family fun sports equipment.