



661 North 7th St.
Lafayette, IN 47901
765-742-2113
www.soalafayette.org

March, 2014

29 Adar I to 29 Adar II, 5774

Service Schedule:

Egalitarian Friday Night Services begin at 8:00 p.m. and are followed by an Oneg.

Traditional Saturday morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. and are followed by a Kiddush.

Candle Lighting Times:

March 7, 6:27 p.m.
March 14, 7:35 p.m. *
March 21, 7:42 p.m.
March 28, 7:50 p.m.



Note later time because of Daylight Savings Time. *

Joint Sisterhood Meeting

Sunday, March 2
12:30 pm at Temple Israel

Jill Sutor, Professor of Sociology, will discuss findings from her 14-year study to answer the questions:

“Do mothers have favorite children in adulthood, and if they do, does it matter?”

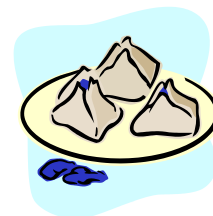
What are the long term consequences of mothers’ and fathers’ favoritism?”

Everyone is asked to bring personal care products (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) or paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.) to be donated to the Home with Hope. Please bring something to donate.

This meeting will also include the annual collection to purchase Passover products for needy Jewish families in the area.

The next **Shul Board Meeting** is Thursday, March 27.

Purim is on Sunday, March 16 this year. The Megillah Reading at the Shul will be March 15 at 8:00 p.m.



A Jewish Film Festival in Indiana?

YES!

The Indianapolis Jewish Film Festival is scheduled for May 3 -10 and will take place in several locations around Indianapolis. To learn more, go to www.indianapolisjewishfilmfestival.org.

The organizers hope this will be the first of an annual event.

Gratitude and Congratulations

Thank you to Becky Lillianfeld for leading Friday night services.

Thank you to Sonya Garfinkel for taking care of all our Friday night Onegs.

Thank you to Alan Garfinkel for making sure the timer in the Shul was repaired.

Mazel Tov to Mark Lillianfeld on his 65th birthday.

Mazel Tov to Ephraim Fishbach for his first visit with new grand daughter, Isabel.

Refuah Shelema

We offer prayers for health and long life for Marge Araonson, Irwin Treager and Steve Weingram.

Yahrzeits

Though my loved one is beyond my sight, I do not despair for I sense my beloved in my heart as a living presence. Sustained by words of faith, comforted by precious memories, we kindle the light in remembrance. "The human spirit is the light of Adonai." (Proverbs 20:27)

Meyer Jerison, March 4, 2 Adar II
Anna Lipschutz, March 4, 2 Adar II
Beatrice Lowenthal, March 12, 10 Adar II
Peretz Gershovitz, March 19, 17 Adar II
Edythe Kalski, March 20, 18 Adar II
M. Bass, March 26, 24 Adar II

CERT TRAINING

Join an Indianapolis training of CERT-- Community Emergency Response Team (Hoosiers helping Hoosiers)

This will be held at the Arthur M. Glick Jewish Community Center March. March 9, 16, 23, and 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a one hour break for lunch.

Ages 14--18, with an adult, all adults welcome. (Great for college application). For more information call Ellen Shevitz at 317.253.0567 or email: Ellenshevitz@gmail.com
NO CHARGE for this program.

Just in case of any disaster, we as a community -- together with the professionals -- will be prepared, trained and equipped with the skills needed.

The following is an Op Ed. from Sam Harris, with a preface from Gwen Slamovich.

While Congregation Sons of Abraham gets a higher percentage of its' congregants to attend services than many other shuls, we still find ourselves just shy of a minyan on most non-egalitarian Saturday mornings, simply because our pool of members is so small.

One solution, may be to make all services egalitarian, but we don't all see eye to eye on this issue. Despite this, we DO rely on the more traditional members of our congregation and perhaps we can all see fit to bend a little to help out other members of our SOA family.

Respectfully,
Gwen Slamovich



Is the Shul half full or half empty?

Maybe a nutty subject line but there is some relevance. And it may encourage you to read on.

Once again, we were short ONE for a minyan on this wintry Shabbat morning. For the three previous attempts for our traditional minyan, the story was the same. Most, but not all, of the participants are the same each week. So the question is, "Do we focus on the nine who were present or the one who stayed home?"

At one time, Sons of Abraham was our family. We were a group of Jews who found ourselves in very un-Jewish Indiana, with no family close by. We banded together to share our experiences, friendship and religion. We shared joyous and sad times. We helped each other when we were able, and felt guilt when we could not. That is how we survived. Unfortunately, our survival now looks more dubious than ever. Certainly more dubious than at any time in the almost 50 years I have been a member. When we reach the point where we can no longer hold a Shabbat Torah service, or offer an opportunity for one of us to say Kaddish, or read a mesheberach for those who are ill, then we are really in serious trouble. Sons of Abraham is much more than a place to which we may send an annual contribution. We need more than cash to survive. We need commitment on the part of our congregants - a willingness to be there when something has to be done, or maybe spend a couple of hours on an occasional Saturday morning to make sure that the Lafayette Jewish Community has a Shabbat morning service as we have for more than 100 years. Without that commitment, you may find the door locked and the lights out when your need is greatest. I hope not to see that in my lifetime.

Shavua Tov,

Sam

**Letter from Jerusalem,
Submitted by Cyrelle Simon**

A Week of Welcoming:

I was delighted to enjoy the company of several visitors this week. David Sanders, Purdue professor and friend of my late husband, Ed, arrived here for a friend's wedding and stopped in to chat. I was interested in news of his family and of the Lafayette Jewish community. I found David's description of his recent vacation in Spain and Gibraltar fascinating.

The next day, I enjoyed the company of my childhood friend, Shirley Stein, who with her husband, Dr. Ira is spending some time in Israel visiting grandchildren and friends. The Steins have homes in Sharon, Mass. and Key Largo. They are now in the process of buying a home in Tel Aviv.

Those friends who have been in Lafayette over thirty years may remember Devora and Moshe Givon. Devora now teaches at Bar Ilan and recently returned from several weeks in Uganda where she and her team lead workshops on child development to teachers in the many day care centers for HIV infected and orphaned children. The leader of her team was a professor from Michigan who had a grant from the NIH to support their work.

Since I have three of my son Hillel's children here for varied lengths of time coincidentally, two of my grandchildren have friends who are Lone Soldiers. I capitalize the term because these are young people who have left their families and homes in other countries and chose to dedicate this part of their lives to defend the Jewish State. Many organizations and individuals prepare care packages, make Thanksgiving parties, where appropriate, invite these soldiers for Shabbat when they are free etc. I had a chance to do the laundry for one of my guests and to provide a bed for a night for another young soldier.

Basically, this was my first opportunity to interact with the famous Lone Soldiers.

Two Special Friday Mornings:

Last week my granddaughter, Brocha and I participated in the Women's Rosh Chodesh group chanting Hallel on a rooftop in Nachlaot. The singing was accompanied by a harpist and violinist and the music was really beautiful. This was Brocha's and my first such experience and, combined with the astonishingly vast view of Jerusalem, Brocha's description of the event was "surreal."

This Friday morning, I attended my first Friday wedding. A friend, widowed just a year ago, was marrying for the second time at a very informal, but charming ceremony in a small hall across from the Kotel. An organist and singer provided music. There was no room for dancing, and the repast was very simple, egg salad tuna, bagels, tea, juice. The happiness was palpable and I found the experience meaningful. As I have noted in a previous e mail, the custom here is for grown children to arrive after the chuppah. The Chatan has 5 children, and the Kallah three...I have read that many years ago, Friday afternoon weddings were common. The Shabbat meal was the wedding meal and served as the sheva brochot. Recently, I have heard that this custom is being revived here.

Some Cultural Differences:

I read an article in the Jerusalem Post highlighting some adjustments many English speaking Olim have to make when their children enter school here.

The following is a paraphrase of a description of some communication difficulties: Here, students address teachers as if they are on the same level. A good teacher is considered one who hears and speaks to the kids with an eye-level approach, as a friend. This is unlike the US where teachers are formally called by their surnames and kept at a distance.

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- Here the opposite applies...: personal informality is the key.
- Here, it's OK to approach teachers with special requests, like extra time to take tests, extensions on handing in papers, or even exam postponements, all according to individual needs.
- Here children are given extra credit for creativity and effort.
- Israelis speak in what is known as adopted Arabic slang as "dugri" communication, a blunt and straight- to-the-point style, on the assumption that conflict is actually good and clears the air. Anglos avoid conflict with phrases like "we might want to consider," "another way to approach the situation" etc. Israelis simply don't understand that style at all.
- In Israel, it's OK to bang on the table and raise your voice, especially about your kids. And, if you don't do that you come off as not caring enough.
- Another example about communication misunderstanding: Israelis tend to overstate the negative and understate the positive, where as Americans tend to do just the opposite. Therefore, when an American says to the teacher, there is a challenge, they mean there is a huge problem, but the teacher thinks this is a minor topic that needn't be addressed. On the flip side: when an Israeli teacher says, we have a problem, it may rate only two or three on a scale from one to ten, whereas an American would mean the problem rates a nine or ten.

Mira Feldman, MSW adds, " American olim don't know how to deal with schools and aren't ready for all the social issues here where things are much more open and kids are on the streets more. Their world back home was much more structured."

With great pleasure, we offer this further explanation from **Rabbi Michael Rascoe**:

"Hi Cyrelle,

"Interesting that Friday weddings are making a comeback, something I would attribute to recent Hasidic and qabbalistic influence of mainstream Ashkenazi practice. It was popular among Hasidim and especially among the rebbes, which some speculated was so that they could easily invite all of their followers and not have to worry about one meal for so many people since they already were feeding them. Positive rationales involve midrash, God blessed Adam and Eve on their wedding, and the Ari z"l who claimed that Yaakov Avinu's wedding was Friday (the source of his claim is unknown so far as I know).

"The Mishnah (Ketubot 4-5) is not fond of Friday or Sunday weddings, but most authorities in the medieval era dismissed most of the Mishnah's concerns (RaMbaM being a notable exception). The primary rationale in the medieval era became poverty, a Friday wedding allowed the Shabbat meal to become the wedding feast, technically the first of the sheva berakhot. This was held by no less than an authority than ReMA (Rabbi Isserles). Once at a wedding for a poor bride at which he officiated, circumstances pushed the wedding into Shabbat and he performed the wedding nonetheless despite the prohibition of a wedding on Shabbat and the Mishnah's very concern. This led the city of Cracow to ban Friday weddings.

"So for poverty or other extenuating circumstances (widower with children, man who hasn't been married, etc.) Ashkenazim allowed weddings on Fridays. They became popular.

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“The Feinsteins, Rav Moshe and Sima were married on a Friday.

“Interestingly, Tuesday which has been popular because of its "tov me'od" extra blessing is a modern interpretation. The Talmud mentions that Tuesday night is not an auspicious night because demons are out the most on this night (Pesachim 112b) which created a problem for some to celebrate that night, or to have the consummation that night. There is a worry that Monday and Tuesday were problematic in that a wedding should have 2 days to prepare (Ketubot 2a).

“Of course there are many authorities that say that a wedding should not be postponed for a midrashic reason based on the day of the week (e.g. Rav Yosef and the Kitsur Shulkhan Arukh).

“Oh well, practices change for all sorts of reasons.

Best,
Michael”

Indiana Jewish Trivia

The first Jewish Congregation in the state, Achduth Vesholom, was formed in Ft Wayne on October 26, 1848 with 26 charter members. Members worshipped in private homes until 1857 when a building for a permanent synagogue was purchased.

The first Jewish marriage performed by a rabbi was in 1849 in Madison. The bride and groom were Ernestine Wehle and Max Abeles, from local families. This marriage preceded the formal creation of a synagogue in Madison by 4 years.

Jewish Studies:

Noon Lecture and Discussion Series

- **Wednesday, March 5** ~ Stewart Center, Room 318 ~ 12:30

Stuart Robertson, Continuing Lecturer, Biblical Hebrew, School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University, "**The Hebrew Bible in Church and Synagogue**"

- **Wednesday, April 9** ~ Stewart Center, Room 318 ~ 12:30

Deena Linett, Professor Emerita, Department of English, Montclair State University, "**Seder," a Fiction: Reading by Professor Deena Linett**

Klatch Jewish Arts Series Presentation

- **Monday, March 31** ~ RAWL 1062 ~ 8:00 p.m.

Ruth Ellen Gruber, Award-winning American writer, photographer, editor, and independent scholar

"Holocaust Legacy: Empty Spaces, Fading First-Hand Memories, New Jewish Realities"

www.ruthellengruber.com

Dear Reader,

While I love to hear from you, please be kind and send me content for the April Bulletin not later than March 23.

Snail mail and hand delivery are fine, but, easiest is e-mail – bridgejudy@aol.com