



# SONS *of* ABRAHAM

LAFAYETTE, IN  
*Established 1889*

May, 2008

Nisan 26 - Iyar 26, 5768

President: Mark Lillianfeld

Send bulletin items to:

[a.garfinkel@comcast.net](mailto:a.garfinkel@comcast.net)

Sisterhood co-Presidents: Jo Gartenhaus and  
Sonia Barash

## Gratitude, Condolences, and Congratulations

The Engel family extends heartfelt gratitude to all those who came to the Saturday morning minyan on March 29 so that **Rabbi Engel** could say Kaddish for his father. Mazel Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Radinsky who recently celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary. Thanks to **Sonya Garfinkel** who hosted the Sisterhood board meeting last month. The congregation extends warmest best wishes and hearty congratulations to **Elliott Slamovich** on the occasion of his promotion to Full Professor. Happy thoughts to the **Lipschutz family** on the prompt sale of their home. It means they will leave us sooner and that is sad but it also means they will be looking toward new horizons on the East coast as they leave "flyover country." All best wishes for health and happiness to our long term and loyal members. Mazel tov to the **Lafayette Klezmerim** as they take on new members from the **Frank family** to continue their musical tradition. Speaking of the

Post Office Box 2671  
West Lafayette, IN 47996-2671  
661 N. Seventh Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901  
Phone (765) 742-2113  
[www.soalafayette.org](http://www.soalafayette.org)

**Franks**, we were pleased to see the **Frank Trio** playing professionally at the Lafayette Daybreak Rotary Club's TOAST TO MENTAL HEALTH on May 1 at the Best Western Hotel. There's no gig like a paid gig. Last minute news: **Neil Zimmerman** received the Robert R. Landolt Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Health Sciences at Purdue. Mazel tov to him and to **Herb Moskowitz** who has just announced his retirement from Purdue. **George Horwich** is continuing his rehabilitation locally at Regency Nursing Home. When he is well enough for visitors, an announcement will be made.

## May Candle Lighting Times

source: Rabbi Rascoe

May 2 8:27 PM

May 9 8:34 PM

May 16 8:40 PM

May 23 8:47 PM

May 30 8:52 PM

## Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette on May 2 - 4 and  
May 9 - 11

## Refuah Sheleimah

Almighty God, we offer prayers for health and long life in the names of

**George Horwich, Sarah Raskin, and Herman Cember, Madelyn Lillianfeld, and Daniella Adar**

## Shul Board to Meet

The Board of Directors of the Congregation is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, May 15** at 8:00 p. m.. The meeting is open to all members and, as a special attraction, some of the board members may attend too.

## Lafayette Jewish Community Religious School

April indeed has flown by especially after such a Purim party-filled March. Our pre-K and Kindergarteners have collected Tzedakah this year so far for contributing toward the Passover Pantry food basket supplies so we'd like to commend their efforts and generosity in helping bring Jewish celebration to local families in need.

Looking forward to May 4th, we'll begin the community's celebrations and reflections on the first sixty years of Israel. The LJCRS morning will coincide with community-wide activities. Please plan to attend as a family! Everything is starting soon after arrival at school that morning. Maybe some musical introductions at 10:00; then 10:30-11:30am in the school wing will be the following: The preK/K classroom will have a Hebrew lettering station for personalizing something to bring home with you. The 1st/2nd graders and their teacher Kevin Gibson will be centered in the Art room for craft making. The third grade with Elizabeth Justice have been developing an Israel Jewpardy style Quiz game so please come and participate in showing what you know and learning what you need to for all middle, upper grades and parents. There will be a dessert area with Ana Gomez-Bravo in the school side of the MPR. The Levenberg family will have more activities especially if the weather cooperates. Listen to find where the music and dancing are. At 11:45am the children will open the program with songs and anthems. Dismissal from school will coincide with the end of their singing in the sanctuary. Please meet your children in the Foyer and welcome them to sit together with the rest of your family group in the sanctuary after they recess off the Bimah.

May 11th brings more school special activities. Third grade and 4th/5th will join at 10:30 to attend the Premiere performance by the Sixth Grade Play-

ers of "A Bintle Brief". Fred Gimble has written and directed this group during the American History component of the class this year. We look forward to such a good audience of parents from all grades and students in the middle grades.

A special class open house party is planned for the 1st/2nd grade so parents need to come here and bring a few family photos for sharing.

PreSchool, preK/K grades and mini-course 7th/8th/9th grade students attend their usual class schedule.

May 18th will be our closing assembly. A secret show may lead to new fun for all but at least there will be ice cream sundaes. We will certainly acknowledge our graduating Ninth graders and aides. All students are commended for attendance. Please plan to be here all morning too. Even though the school closes for the summer, make sure you keep reading and borrowing from the library. There are so many good books...

**And for next year, LJCRS NEEDS TEACHERS. Please call Joy at 463-3455 or email me your interest. Preschool through 8th/9th grade students need to have YOU as mentors and guides for Jewish learning. Make 2008-9 a year of active sharing in LJCRS.**

## Rabbi's Reflections

"It's the Economy, Stupid"

Being an election season, you've heard the expression, "It's the economy, stupid" (coined by President Clinton strategist James Carville against the first President Bush). People vote their pocket books unless they feel physically threatened. Why do we vote based on the economy? We want to live a certain life style and feel security in our daily lives, which for most of us aren't routinely affected by far-away concerns like Iraq and Iran but are affected by the economy. Actually, faith plays a large role.

Comparing current and past crises illustrates the point. After 9/11, President Bush told us (in a larger context) to shop. The 2001 recession was short-lived partly due to consumers believing in our country. The 1990-1991 recession also was short. In between, potential ones never happened. Why? In

the '90's, when President Clinton, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Deputy Secretary Lawrence Summers, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan spoke, people believed. Now, President Bush, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speak, and we don't trust them. Also, this one affects the financial system, and not technology or another sector of the economy.

The president is cheerleader in chief. If we feel sure of the people around him, we trust the system. Paulson, respected as Goldman Sachs' CEO, has yet to grow into his Treasury position. Former Commerce Under Secretary David Rothkopf wrote that Paulson announcing Bear Stearns' rescue "looked like a deer caught in the headlights"; he doesn't imbue confidence. Bernanke doesn't inspire the same trust as his predecessor (deservedly or not is a different issue). President Bush's approval rating reflects how much we believe him. Since financial institutions cry, we worry more.

Bear Stearns' collapse is as much about our lack of faith as its cash need. Bear Stearns handled credit, from the Latin root, *credo*, meaning "I believe." Suddenly, other institutions no longer extended credit, traded, or left assets with them. Oppenheimer analyst Meredith Whitney wrote, "A company is only as solvent as the perception of its solvency." We used to believe that banks and mortgage lenders would recover their money, that people who incurred debts would pay. Now we even question banks. In sum, our lack of faith underlies our current problems. In fact, if we aren't careful in what we say, our belief can turn this possible recession into a major depression.

Money relies on faith. The root of currency means "run"; it is what passes between two parties. Money's root is from Juno's Temple, which minted coins; it is the trusted medium of exchange. Coins don't have inherent value, which comes from their metal content. Pennies are mostly zinc, the rest mostly copper with little nickel and no silver. A \$1 coin is not worth \$1 in metal. We trust our government to treat it as if it were worth \$1. Bills are not worth their face value in paper and ink, nor can we trade them for gold or silver. We believe the US government backs them. So long as we have faith,

we use them. To resist counterfeiting, the government mills coins. They raise top edges and reed (i.e. ridge) sides so people can't shave metal off the sides. They redesign the bills. Both measures encourage trust. In sum, the market and money operate on faith.

We have faith in many things. Trust the government. Life would not be orderly without it (see Pirquei Avot 3:2). But faith causes the world to function. Scientific axioms and postulates operate, so we believe them even if we can't prove them. The Omer period, where we admit our fear regarding the world's rain and sun, and that history has not always been nice to us, culminates in Shavuot, the anniversary of God's revelation through Torah. They, in fact all mitzvot, are the Jews' currency of faith. Above all else stands God, whom we trust. God requires payment from us in the money of moral behavior and won't let us shave the edges. While we run on bank currency, we cannot run from God. One thing we learn from the economy above all else: while we say we are scientific and behave that way, we still operate daily in the realm of faith and belief. Try adding faith in God and the currency of Judaism to your daily behavior and routine.

## Company's Coming

Save the date of May 2, 2008. We will have Friday night services as usual, but special company will be on hand. We had a call from Twin Lakes Southern Baptist Church in Monticello, IN and they want to mark the 60th anniversary of Israeli when Rabbi Rascoe is on hand. Kathy Brandon, the lady representing the congregation would like to visit during Friday night services with a group whose number is to be announced next week. In case anyone else (Sisterhood?) would like to contact her for further arrangements, her cell phone number is local: 426-3218 (I'll bet you can't guess why I shaded this article :-)

**IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT: Harriet and Sid Diamond will celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary at that evening's oneg.**

# The Counting of the Omer

S'firat Ha-Omer (in Hebrew)

*You shall count for yourselves -- from the day after the Shabbat, from the day when you bring the Omer of the waving -- seven Shabbats, they shall be complete. Until the day after the seventh sabbath you shall count, fifty days... -Leviticus 23:15-16*

*You shall count for yourselves seven weeks, from when the sickle is first put to the standing crop shall you begin counting seven weeks. Then you will observe the Festival of Shavu'ot for the L-RD, your G-d -Deuteronomy 16:9-10*

According to the Torah (Lev. 23:15), we are obligated to count the days from Passover to Shavu'ot. This period is known as the Counting of the Omer. An omer is a unit of measure. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering. This grain offering was referred to as the Omer.

Every night, from the second night of Passover to the night before Shavu'ot, we recite a blessing and state the count of the omer in both weeks and days. So on the 16th day, you would say "Today is sixteen days, which is two weeks and two days of the Omer." The Orthodox Union has a chart that provides the transliterated Hebrew and English text of the counting day-by-day.

The counting is intended to remind us of the link between Passover, which commemorates the Exodus, and Shavu'ot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah. It reminds us that the redemption from slavery was not complete until we received the Torah.

This period is a time of partial mourning, during which weddings, parties, and dinners with dancing

are not conducted, in memory of a plague during the lifetime of Rabbi Akiba. Haircuts during this time are also forbidden. The 33rd day of the Omer (the eighteenth of Iyar) is a minor holiday commemorating a break in the plague. The holiday is known as Lag b'Omer. The mourning practices of the omer period are lifted on that date. The word "Lag" is not really a word; it is the number 33 in Hebrew, as if you were to call the Fourth of July "Iv July" (IV being 4 in Roman numerals). See Hebrew Alphabet for more information about using letters as numbers.

There was at one time a dispute as to when the counting should begin. The Pharisees believed that G-d gave Moses an oral Torah along with the written Torah, and according to that oral Torah the word "Shabbat" in Lev. 23:15 referred to the first day of Passover, which is a "Shabbat" in the sense that no work is permitted on the day (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are both referred to as "Shabbat" in this sense, though they cannot both occur on a Saturday in the same year; see Lev. 23:24 and 23:32; see also Lev. 23:39 the first and eight days of Sukkot are called "Shabbat"). In this view, held by most Jews today, the counting begins on the second night of Passover, that is, the day after the non-working day of Passover. The Tzedukim (Sadducees) rejected the idea of an oral Torah and believed that the word "Shabbat" in Lev. 23:15 referred to the Shabbat of the week when Pesach began, so counting would always begin on a Saturday night during Passover. The Sadducees no longer exist; today, only a small sect call the Karaites follow this view.

Lag B'Omer will occur on the following days of the Gregorian calendar:

\* Jewish Year 5768: sunset May 22, 2008 - nightfall May 23, 2008

\* Jewish Year 5769: sunset May 11, 2009 - nightfall May 12, 2009

\* Jewish Year 5770: sunset May 1, 2010 - nightfall May 2, 2010

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## Yahrzeits

Name	Hebrew Date	English Date
Goodman, Anna	Nisan 27	May 2, 2008
Salzman, George	Nisan 28	May 3, 2008
Mazor, Albert N.	Nisan 28	May 3, 2008
Friedman, Mary	Nisan 29	May 4, 2008
Fischbach, Rachel Lew	Nisan 29	May 4, 2008
Goldberg, David	Nisan 30	May 5, 2008
Gordon, Betty Bernstein	Iyar 3	May 8, 2008
Silver, Anne	Iyar 7	May 12, 2008
Brodsky, Harry	Iyar 12	May 17, 2008
Salzman, Jacob	Iyar 13	May 18, 2008
Horwich, Rose	Iyar 13	May 18, 2008
Berk, Jean	Iyar 17	May 22, 2008
Goodman, Dora	Iyar 20	May 25, 2008
Paul, Laivy L.	Iyar 21	May 26, 2008
Mc Murray, Paul	Iyar 24	May 29, 2008
Feinstein, Jacob	Iyar 26	May 31, 2008

## 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. We used part of it for the recent re-wiring done in part of the building. This fund provides a naming opportunity for remodeling our sanctuary.

The newly 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:

Emergency repairs of Break-in Damage\_\_\_\_\_

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. Donations will be acknowledged.

## United Jewish Communities Fact of the Month

Israeli children were on vacation from school this Passover, yet children in Sderot and the Western Negev were unlikely to get a break from the waves of Kassam rockets striking the region. Thanks to UJC/Federation funding, JAFI provided a respite to more than 2,500 children with outings in safer areas this holiday.

## Help Needed Urgently

Our treasurer and our financial secretary have informed us that they are now working in their final year of service to the shul. We urgently need one or more people to begin an apprenticeship so they may take up this work at the end of 2008. Can you help? Will you help? **Will we have to hire a bookkeeping service to do this?** Speak with any shul officer for more information.

## Last Laughs

On the first day of Hebrew school the teacher finished the lesson and asked for questions. "I've got one," said a boy. "According to the Bible, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"That's right," said the teacher.

"And the children of Israel defeated the Philistines and the Egyptians, and they built the Temple, and they were always doing something important, right?"

"All of that is correct," agreed the teacher. "So what's your question?"

"Well," demanded the boy, "What were the grown-ups doing?"

(**Harriet Diamond** found this in an old *Reader's Digest*)

## Sisterhood Events

May 6: Sisterhood board meeting

May 8: Yom Ha"Atzmaut

May 9: Graduates Oneg Shabbat

Hosts: TBA

May 14: Wed. noon: Sisterhood Closing Luncheon, at the Lafayette Country Club. Please RSVP to Jo Gartenhaus or Sue Prohofsky by May 11.

## May Calendar

Prepared by Muriel Harris

May 2-4: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

May 2: 8 p.m. Friday Shabbat services, Oneg celebrating Harriet and Sid Diamond's 55th anniversary and the 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel

May 4: Israel @ 60 Celebration: 10:30 -11:30 a.m., children's activities; 11:45 a.m., program, followed by light lunch music, and dancing, at Temple Israel

May 5: Mon. 12:30 p.m. Rosh Hodesh lunch, at Puccini's

May 6: Tues. 1:15 p.m. Chumash Study Group

May 6: Sisterhood Board Meeting, at the home of Sue Prohofsky

May 7 Wed. Yom HaZikron

May 8: Thurs. Yom HaAtzmaut

May 9-11: Rabbi Rascoe will be in Lafayette

May 9: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening services

May 10: Sat. 10 a.m. Shabbat morning services

May 13: Tues. 1:15 p.m. Chumash Study Group

May 14: Wed. noon: Sisterhood Closing Luncheon, at the Lafayette Country Club. Please RSVP to Jo Gartenhaus or Sue Prohofsky by May 11.

May 15; Thurs. 8 p.m. Shul Board Meeting, at the shul

May 16: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service

May 17: Sat., 10 a.m. Shabbat morning service. **Please note that this will be an egalitarian service, conducted by Judith and Emily Silverman, commemorating Ed Silverman's 10th yahrzeit. The Sisterhood will host the kiddish.**

May 20 Tues., 1:15 p.m. Chumash Study Group

7:30 p.m. Minyon at the shul, for Rabbi Engel's mother's yahrzeit.

May 23: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service

May 24: Sat. 10 a.m. Shabbat morning service

May 27: Tues. 1:15 p.m. Chumash Study Group

May 30: Fri. 8 p.m. Shabbat evening service

May 31: Sat. 10 a.m. Shabbat morning service

## **A Chance to do a Mitzvah: Recycle That Old Jarful of Buttons**

Maybe you have a jarful (or a fistful) of old buttons that you are saving in case you need them for a repair you will never find time to accomplish. So, those buttons just sit around not doing very much for anyone. Elizabeth Zinselmeister to the rescue!

This art student who hopes to study in Italy next year is making a creative project out of re-cycled buttons. If you have a few you do not want anymore, Alan Garfinkel will deliver them or mail them to Ms. Elizabeth Zinselmeister 4930 Osprey Court, Lafayette, IN 47909.

**DO YOU HAVE DIGITAL PIX YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH  
THE CONGREGATION? SEND  
US A JPEG  
NOW!!** [«a.garfinkel@comcast.net»](mailto:a.garfinkel@comcast.net)

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P.O. Box 2671

West Lafayette. IN 47996-2671

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