



CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
November 2017
11 Cheshvan – 12 Kislev 5778



Torah & Haftorah Readings and Page Numbers					
Torah Reading	November 4 Vayera Bereshis 18:1-22:24 Pages 78-105	November 11 Chayei Sara Bereshis 23:1-25:18 Pages 106-123	November 18 Toldos Bereshis 25:19-28:9 Pages 124-143	November 25 Vayetzei Bereshis 28:10-32:3 Pages 144-169	
	Haftorah	II Kings 4:1-37 Pages 1134-1135	I Kings 1:1-31 Pages 1136-1137	Erev Rosh Chodesh I Samuel 20:18-42 Pages 1207-1208	Hosea 12:13-14:10 Page 1140-1141

Times for Services can be found in the calendar and on the Ahavath Achim web site, www.ahavathachim.org

Rabbi Moldovan's Torah Message

The Torah begins with the story of the creation of the world. Hashem created light and dark, the heavens and the seas, the earth and trees, the sun and the moon, the fish and the birds, animal and humans in six days with a seventh day dedicated to the creation of rest. Rashi poses an unusual question. We might think that the creation of the world is a fitting introduction to the Torah. But Rashi queries this assumption. The Torah is not a book of stories but rather a book of law. The point of the Torah is to guide us in how to lead our lives in the service of Hashem. If so, why does the Torah begin with the story of Genesis. It would be more appropriate for the Torah to begin with laws and guidance as to how to lead our own lives! Rashi answers that the Torah begins with the creation in order to let us lay claim to the land of Israel. When the nations of the world claim that Israel does not belong to the Jewish people, we can state that Hashem, the creator of Israel and the entire world gave us this land. Israel's status as a disputed homeland for the Jewish people is not something new - it is something that has been apparent for centuries. The arguments for our exclusive ownership of Israel will never be accepted by those who choose to undermine our position. But at the end of the day we know we have more right to Israel than any nation has to their own sovereign land. Nobody was given land from Hashem except for the Jewish people in Israel.

Yom Tov Appreciation



Thank you to our wonderful friends and members whose efforts made this past Yom Tov so exciting with singing and dancing, wonderful divrei Torah, delicious refreshments, and a new Sukkah. Thank you to Rabbi Moldovan and to the young, enthusiastic men and women from Yeshiva University who shared their enthusiasm and verve with us. Thank you to Bernard Goldberg and his helpers for designing and building our new Sukkah where wonderful Kiddush was presented. Thank you to the Loesers, Kleins and Schillers for sponsoring Kiddush. Thank you to Shalom Mizrahi and Sam Shoshan for all their help in setting up and clearing the areas for davening and dancing. A wonderful Yom Tov was had by all.

Mazel Toy to Martin and Elaine Schiller who will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary this month at a family get-together in Palm Springs.

Congregation Ahavath Achim on Social Media: Don't forget to check the Ahavath Achim website for current updates. You can also read and post to the shul's Facebook page or Twitter.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Maccabeats on Sunday, November 5:

This Yeshiva University A Capella group will entertain at Congregation Beth El, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road. Doors open at 12 noon. Concert begins at 1:00 PM. Admission is \$5 for kids (under 13) - \$10 for adults, includes lunch buffet starting at 12 noon. Pay at the door.

Volunteer Opportunity – Book Buddy:

Adults are needed to read with elementary school students. The Blackham school in Bridgeport has only 12% of its students reading at grade level. For more information, please contact bookbuddies@jewishphilanthropyct.org or visit the website books2connect.org or phone: (203) 659-3602.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is co-sponsoring the following programs with community organizations. All programs are FREE and open to the community.

Thursday, November 2 at 7:30 pm. Honoring 100th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration

What the British Government's support for a "national Home" for the Jewish people in Palestine meant in 1917 and what it means in 2017. Location: Temple Beth El, 301 Roxbury Rd., Stamford

Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 pm. French film

Polish and Yiddish dialogue, with English subtitles. Location: The State Cinema in Stamford.

Have an Extra Coat in your Closet?

Bring donations of new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens for adults and children to Schoke JFS, 4200 Park Ave., Suite 300, Bridgeport, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-4 PM. For information contact Rebekah Kanefsky, 203-921-4161/rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

Recent Golden Book Contributions

<p>In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Myrna and Seymour Kosowsky's Grandson Pamela Zimmer Elaine and Martin Schiller Goldie Librach Hedy and Terry Augenbraun</p> <p>In Memory of Zoltan Guttman Arlene and Marvin Dentz Betty and Andrew Deutsch Lee and Bernard Dickens Sara and Andrew Klein Susan Klein Myrna and Seymour Kosowsky Goldie Librach Elaine and Martin Schiller Arnell Wilson</p> <p>In Honor of the Birth of a Granddaughter to Barbara and Peter Tuckel Hedy and Terry Augenbraun Goldie Librach Elaine and Martin Schiller</p>	<p>Wishing happiness to Barbara and Peter Tuckel in their New Home Goldie Librach</p> <p>In Honor of the Birth of a Baby Girl to Chaya and Rabbi Yonason Gorin Hedy and Terry Augenbraun</p> <p>Happy New Year Wishes to Myrna and Seymour Kosowsky Pamela Zimmer</p> <p>Happy New Year Wishes to Helene and Ralph Green Pamela Zimmer</p> <p>In Memory of Rabbi Israel Stein Hedy and Terry Augenbraun Elaine and Martin Schiller</p>
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Refuah Shelemah to: Kenneth Epstein, Rabbi Moshe Epstein, David Gordon, Andrew Klein, Fred Schwartz, and Diane Shinbaum. May G-d grant each a speedy and complete recovery.

Please remember that Golden Book greeting cards are a great way to honor someone or remember a loved one.

Yahrtzeits for November 2017:

Saturday, November 4 – **Julia Millstein** (Mother to Ellen Rothwax)
Monday, November 6 **Sarah Millstein** (Grandmother to Ellen Rothwax)
Tuesday, November 7 – **Irving Schor** (Father to Roslyn Fishman)
Wednesday, November 8 – **Israel Kessler** (Grandfather to Ellen Rothwax)
Monday, November 13 – **Sidney Gordon** (Father to Diana Rich-Schwartz)
Monday, November 13 – **Rose Selinger** (Mother to Arlene Dentz)
Tuesday, November 14 – **Louis Weiskopf** (Husband to Goldie Librach)
Thursday, November 16 – **Herman Kraut** (Brother to Deborah Shear)

Saturday, November 18 – **Av'ner Gelb** (Father to Larry Gelb)
Monday, November 20 – **Bessie Kahme** (Mother to Elaine Schiller)
Monday, November 20 – **Beatrice Lozanov** (Mother to Steve Lozanov)
Tuesday, November 21 – **Sarah Gordon** (Mother to David Gordon)
Wednesday, November 22 – **Jacob Apfelbaum** (Father to Goldie Librach)
Friday, November 24 – **David Zimmer** (Father to Pamela Zimmer)
Sunday, November 26 – **Barbara Seedman** (Mother to Tammy Loeser)
Tuesday, November 28 – **Ben Gordon** (Father to David Gordon)
Thursday, November 30 – **Dr. Lewis Scheinberg** (Father to Judy Lerner)

Yahrtzeits begin at Ma'ariv the evening before. Please make an extra effort to ensure a minyan for those saying Kaddish. **Be there for others, and they'll be there for you.**

If you would like an Aliyah on Shabbat before the Yahrtzeit, please make sure you are in Shul before Torah reading.

NCSY Annual Gala Honors Joe and Julia Macy, z"l

On Sunday, November 12th, NCSY will celebrate over 60 years of service to American Jewish youth at its first NCSY Annual Gala event. Our own Joe and Julia Macy, z"l, will be remembered and honored among the leaders and sustainers of NCSY. The NCSY tribute, taken from the Orthodox Union articles archive is presented here for your information and enjoyment.



Julia and Joseph Macy z"l were the founders of an NCSY dynasty in the organization's early days. Julia escaped from Europe in 1939 before most of her family was murdered; Joseph endured the horrors of the concentration camps, emigrating to America after the war. Settling in Connecticut, they raised daughters Toby and Barbara. The Macys – immigrants driven to America by the war in Europe – went on to become successful in the restaurant and hotel business – a true American success story!

After the Macy girls became active in NCSY, Joseph followed in their footsteps by becoming the Orthodox Union's Vice President for New England, a position he held for more than two decades before becoming National Honorary Vice President of the OU. For many years, the Macys were the backbone of New England NCSY, with no task too great or too small for their attention. The NCSY family they established has now reached its third generation, with their granddaughter serving as New England Regional President. The hard work and dedication that the Macys demonstrated on behalf of Jewish teens has rarely been matched and never exceeded.

For 63 years, NCSY has been empowering Jewish teens by providing them with access to their own Jewish heritage and grooming them for leadership roles within the community. It is only with the support and guidance of families like the Macys, and many others like them, that NCSY is able to succeed in its mission, engaging more than 24,000 Jewish teens nationwide throughout the year.

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100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

On November 2, 1917, there was one item that was not in the morning's newspapers. It was the letter written by the British Foreign Secretary, Arthur James Balfour, to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader of the Jewish community. The letter, now known as the Balfour Declaration, is reproduced here and read:

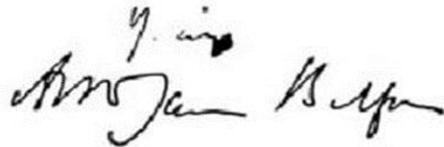
Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.



It is sometimes said that the declaration was a purely British affair, but that would fly in the face of the evidence. Despite their history of anti-Semitism, the French had already given their written approval for a Jewish home in Palestine, as had the Italians, the Americans and the Japanese, and even the Pope was favorably disposed. . . However, it was not a legal document in any way. It was not a treaty and had no status in international law. It was simply an expression of support - the Government looking with favor on a Jewish homeland - sent in a letter to Lord Rothschild. It could easily have gotten lost at any time. It was only in 1920 at San Remo and two years later in Geneva, that the League of Nations gave the mandate for Palestine to Britain and mandated it to provide the Jewish home there. All 51 nations of the league voted for it, with none against. The League of Nations spoke of a Jewish nation for the first time and of "reconstituting" it in Palestine. Balfour had only spoken of "establishing" it, yet here it wrote of "reconstituting" its ancient rights. It was this basis in international law that gave legitimacy to the Zionists' claim to a Palestinian home, and it was this agreement that was accepted in full by the UN in 1947. *Resource: Jacob Richman, Stamford Jewish Yahoo*