



From the Rabbi's Desk

Rabbi Rachel Smookler

Rachel@smookler.com

Reflection on the Election

When Hillary Clinton was running for president in 2008, we were living in Japan. It was pretty amazing, even all those miles away from home, to think that back in my home country such incredible strides were being made.

I was living in a country where, as a woman, I couldn't deposit a check into the bank. I couldn't get my phone fixed unless my husband came with me. And yet, I was the Chief Rabbi of Japan! I think of this story every time I think of Hillary Clinton running for President.

But, this was eight years ago, when she didn't end up winning enough votes to be the Democratic presidential nominee. But, there I was in Japan knowing that back home, in the good old USA, a woman was running for president and "I" couldn't deposit a check or get my phone fixed.

Right around this time, I was serving as the Rabbi to the Jewish Community of Japan. It was a Saturday morning and I was the first person at shul that morning. A few minutes later, a man I had never seen before came into the sanctuary.

I welcomed him and I could tell he was from France. There were Jews from all over the world in Japan. I never knew who would walk through the synagogue doors on any given Shabbat. Jews traveling in Asia would frequently come to our synagogue and we always had guests as well as local members.

So, when this man came in I wasn't sure if he was visiting or if he lived in Tokyo. He told me owned a European antique store in Tokyo and that he came to say Kaddish for his father's *yahrzeit*.

I told him I was the Rabbi at the synagogue. Absolute shock came over his face. "I wasn't aware that women could be rabbis," he said. He was really and truly horrified. I had learned over the years, living amongst Jews from all over the world, that there really wasn't any where else in the world like the U.S. in terms of Jewish plurality.

Whereas American Jews had already tested the waters and accepted female clergy and were well on their way to opening their doors to homosexual rabbis, Jews in other countries were completely unaware of these strides and in many cases against them. Many of my international Jewish friends weren't on board with the progressive practices of American Jews. And, I didn't hold that against them.

In Europe and in South America, Jewish communities have been slower to adopt practices of progressive American Jews. And, so I shouldn't have been so surprised at this Frenchman's reaction to the fact that I was the Rabbi at the Jewish Community of Japan and that "I" would be leading services there that morning. But, I was surprised.

Imagine someone being shocked and disgusted because of your gender! I felt particularly angry at his reaction because, I thought, women were making such strides in the world. It seemed ridiculous that someone would actually be stuck in this time warp. And, so I did something unusual. I wasn't in the habit of challenging people I had never met before about the inequality of the genders that exist in traditional Judaism. But, I couldn't stop myself.

"Are you aware," I said incredulously, "that there is a woman running for president of the United States right now??"

He just kind of looked at me. "Would you let a female surgeon operate on you?" I asked.

He said he would. "But, I can't lead services? You would put your life in a woman's hands on an operating table, but a woman leading services?" He mumbled something about having to go and I knew I would never forget that encounter.

How it made me feel, so confused and demeaned. It is the very reason I cried when Hilary Clinton came out on stage this summer as the Democratic presidential nominee.

(Continued on page 2)

The mission of Temple Beth David is to provide an environment where the concepts of community prayer, education, and service to the greater Jewish community are provided within the context of Conservative Judaism. We pride ourselves on being a friendly, participatory, egalitarian community, welcoming all to be a part of our synagogue family.

To see tens of thousands of people standing on their feet cheering, screaming. As a rabbi, I don't formally endorse candidates or try to push politics on people. And, I speak to you today NOT about political ideology but as a woman who has been looked at with disdain, and disgust. As if I didn't have the right to be standing there doing what I was trained to do.

That's all, not politics but rights. I guess it's hard to understand that feeling if you've never experienced it. It's hard to be blown away and excited, unless you understand the road it took to get there. Because as I see it, when Hilary Clinton walked out onto that stage it wasn't just Hilary walking out; it was EVERY woman walking out there.

I felt the exact same way when I read Parshat Pinchas. I find it pretty incredible and unbelievable the Democratic national convention coincided with our reading Parshat Pinchas.

For in it we read about genealogy after genealogy and a census taken of the descendants of the Israelites who came up out of the land of Egypt. Each tribe, each clan ... listed by their male offspring. It doesn't come as a surprise; this is the way the Torah has always counted the Israelites. Except, at the very end of the census a sentence begins:

The daughters of Zelophechad, of Manassite family — son of Hephher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph — came forward. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

They stood before Moses and they said, "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not one of the faction, Korah's faction, which banded together against the LORD, but died for his own sin; and he has left no sons. Let not our father's name be lost to his clan just because he had no son! Give us a holding among our father's kinsmen!" Moses brought their case before the LORD. And the LORD said to Moses, "The plea of Zelophechad's daughters is just: you should give them a hereditary holding among their father's kinsmen; transfer their father's share to them.

Further, speak to the Israelite people as follows: 'If a man dies without leaving a son, you shall transfer his property to his daughter. This shall be the law of procedure for the Israelites, in accordance with the LORD's command to Moses.

So here's what's interesting about this story: each daughter is named: Machla, Noa, Chogla, Milcah, and Tirtzah. But, Zelophechad's lineage too is named — tracing him all the way back to Joseph.

As you know, the Torah doesn't waste space. The fact that each daughter's name is written down for all time, and that they are traced back to Joseph, holds that the Torah is telling us that this is indisputable. That future generations need to pay attention to this. And, that it can't be ignored or sidelined. They have names. They have tribal territorial rights.

Do you know what else is fascinating about this story that leaps off of the parchment amidst columns and columns of male genealogies? The fact that G-d tells Moses not only that the daughters of Zelophechad speak right, but that, from this point on, the law will reflect the change. The daughters of Zelophechad spoke up and changed the law not only for themselves, but for all women.

In Parshat Pinchas we see history being made as it happened. We are allowed to see the process and the outcome. The rabbis found numerous ways to heap praises on the five daughters of Zelophechad. In fact, a midrash states that the daughters are also mentioned by Joseph when he brings his son Manasseh to Jacob to be blessed, telling his father: *for this is the firstborn [ha-bekhor]*.

The definite article *ha-* in the word *ha-bekhor*, with the numerical value of five, the rabbis say alludes to the five daughters of Zelophechad. According to this midrash, Joseph insisted upon his son Manasseh's right to receive his blessing from his grandfather's right hand, by merit of the five women who would be born to this tribe.

The Torah makes certain that we, the generations in the future, will take notice of the daughters of Zelophechad — not by their names alone. In chapter 27 verse 5, the word *MishpataN* — *their judgement, or their plea* — is written with an enlarged final nun; no doubt emphasizing the feminine plural ending and forcing the reader to take notice. And, when reading it in public and vocalizing this special ending, even then, history was being made.

There are only 16 recorded enlarged letters in the Torah and the story of the daughters of Zelophechad and women's rights are bound up in that super-sized final nun.

I don't think the French man who walked into the synagogue that day knew about the daughters of Zelophechad or about the final nun that emphasized the beginning of women's rights. But, I did. I knew the importance of having role models who spoke up for themselves and who changed the status quo.

This is why I was moved to my core when Hilary Clinton walked out onto that stage at the convention. It really was a moment like that. Like an answer to that Frenchman eight years ago. That moment, when she walked out on stage, was a giant final nun.

Our website has a new look and updated information about Temple Beth David!

www.tbdrochester.org

From the President's Desk

Andrew Berger

Andrew.Berger@rochester.edu



I hope everybody has been having an excellent summer. In the spirit of vacation, let me keep this column from consuming too much of your time.

Interest is growing. Rabbi Smookler and I have each had several recent conversations with people interested in joining (or re-joining) Temple Beth David. You'll be seeing new faces in the coming weeks and at High Holidays. Keep up the word of mouth!

Revamped web presence. Speaking of spreading the word....Barbara Grosh and Helen Kashtan have made significant updates and improvements to our website (tdbrochester.org) and our Facebook page. Thanks, you two.

New TBD initiative: You already know about our popular Havdalah At Home events, where congregants host get-togethers to celebrate the end of Shabbat. To complement this, we are launching a new series where we will *welcome* Shabbat. We're calling it Friday Night Fresh. Think local food sources, traditional and modern Jewish dishes, singing, and community-building. As of this writing, it looks like we'll hold the first one on September 23 (more details to follow). Please join in! Count on having either HaH or FNF offered every month. These are important entry points for newcomers.

Supporting TBD through food. Speaking of food: sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush is a great way to support TBD. The process is as easy as contacting the front office and saying you want to

sponsor one—the system has been streamlined so it's easy to choose a date, and the pricing is straightforward. Currently most of our regular kiddushes come out of the TBD budget.

High Holidays logistics. As mentioned in my last column, we are celebrating the High Holidays in multiple locations this year. Exact times will be given elsewhere, but make sure you internalize which events are happening where:

Rosh Hashana Day 1 (evening, then morning): Temple SINAI

Rosh Hashana Day 2 (morning): Temple Beth David (chapel)

Kol Nidrei: Temple SINAI

Yom Kippur (entire day, including Ne'ilah): Temple SINAI

Mingling at Temple Sinai on September 2. As a further gesture of collaboration, Sinai has explicitly invited our congregation to share in their annual "Get S'More Shabbat" outdoor service on the Friday night of Labor Day weekend. Rabbi Smookler will be involved in the service. Reservations are requested by August 25 for food planning, but go ahead and call the Temple Sinai office at 381-6890 even if you're reading this at a later date. Rabbi Smookler has specifically asked for us to have a generous presence there to show our appreciation.

Ever onwards with our new home. Last week the Board of Trustees approved a general contractor's quote for renovating our sanctuary space. We have requested a formal contract. It's a long process, but we are close to beginning actual construction.

Be well, and I look forward to seeing you during the High Holidays,

Andrew



Place Your Lulav & Etrog Order!

Order your personal set for Sukkot.

Just \$45, including shipping.

Please mail your payment to the Temple Office, noting "Lulav and Etrog" in the memo line.

Orders due by September 20.

All in the Family

We celebrated Jen Talany's 35th birthday, which was August 26! Jen is our office assistant who works one day each week with Rebecca!

September Birthdays

Noah Meyers	Sept. 1
Judy Eissenstat	Sept. 2
Rachel Weinstein	Sept. 4
Henry Berger	Sept. 5
Yapha Nussbaum	Sept. 5
Marilyn Segelin	Sept. 5
Adam Foote	Sept. 6
Morris Lovinger	Sept. 7
Daniel Goldman	Sept. 8
Ari Kramer	Sept. 9
James Parkman	Sept. 9
Toby Berke	Sept. 12
Jean Brandwein	Sept. 12
Michelle Sternberg	Sept. 14
Roei Dery	Sept. 16
Leo Katzman	Sept. 17
Michael J. Halpern	Sept. 22
Lewis Rothberg	Sept. 22
Myron Kleinberg	Sept. 24
Samantha Levy	Sept. 24
Eric Foote	Sept. 25
Karen Berger	Sept. 27

October Birthdays

Sam Schrier	Oct. 1
Susan Wolbert	Oct. 1
Daniel Saltzman	Oct. 3
Marvin Raphael	Oct. 5
Marvin Davis	Oct. 10
Stanley Gross	Oct. 11
Carl Levy	Oct. 11
Jordan Levy	Oct. 13
Sarah Fleisher	Oct. 21
Kari Abramson	Oct. 26
Anita Bauman	Oct. 26
Allan Robbins	Oct. 26
Eva Abrams	Oct. 30
Stacey Berke	Oct. 31
Florence Phillips	Oct. 31

September Anniversaries

Jonathan Feldman & Alison Jane Helms	Sept. 2
Kevin & Judy Fleissig	Sept. 5
Harriet Driss & Kevin McTighe	Sept. 17
Rabbi Aviva Berg & Arthur Bernberg	Sept. 20

October Anniversaries

Scott & Lori Davis	Oct. 16
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Thank You

- ◆ Alice Nussbaum who recently sponsored kiddish lunch in honor of Dan's special birthday!
- ◆ Andrew and Karen Berger in honor of Henry's haftarah reading.
- ◆ Cholent was recently sponsored by the Rosen-Cohen family in honor of Bernie Roth's birthday.

If you would like to sponsor a kiddish, please contact Karen Berger via the Temple Office.

Mazel tov to Leo Katzman

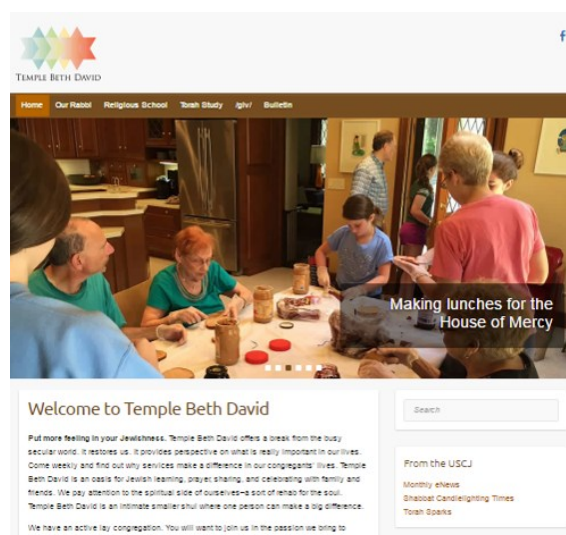


Leo Katzman will be celebrating becoming a Bar Mitzvah on October 29th.

He is the son of Phil and Joanne Katzman and the older brother of Seth. He is an 8th grader at Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton.

Leo is interested in theater, weather, and geography. He participates in "The Morning Show" at school and plays violin in orchestra. In his free time he enjoys riding his bicycle and reading a good book.

Mazel tov to the Katzman family!



Our website has a new look and updated information about Temple Beth David!

Thanks to Barbara Grosh for her creativity and efforts at updating and maintaining the site.

Next up: a on-line tool for donations and dues payments.

Honor Flight: Irv Mindlin

Charles Phillips escorted his father-in-law, **Irv Mindlin**, on Honor Flight this past Spring. Irv served in the Air Force and Army.

Guardians like Chuck, son of **Florence and Dave (z"l) Phillips**, fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans with a safe, memorable and rewarding experience. Chuck is also an Air Force veteran.

Honor Flight recognizes American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, DC to see the memorial dedicated to their time of service, at no cost to the veterans and their escorts (called guardians). Top priority is given to veterans from the earliest eras first along with those from any era who suffer a catastrophic illness. Presently Honor Flight is serving veterans who served prior to 1964.



SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

Checks payable to: Temple Beth David, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Suite 204 , Rochester, NY 14618

Date _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ (minimum donation \$7, or three for \$18.)

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Recipient Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Card Message:

- ☐ Get Well Wishes
- ☐ In Honor
- ☐ In Appreciation

- ☐ In Memory of _____
- ☐ In Honor
- ☐ Congratulations on _____

Note: _____

Fund: If no fund is specified, donation will be made to the David Solomon Fund.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> David Solomon Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Skopitz Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Fishman Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiva Chevra Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Gilbert Rosenbaum Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitzvah Kiddish Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Soldier's Project Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Repair Fund |



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Books & Brunch

Join us for a discussion of
Jewish-themed books over brunch.

Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog

Sundays @ 10 a.m. – noon

69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

Open to the community!

Oct. 9: **Rachel Calof's Story:
Jewish Homesteader
on the Northern Plains**
(memoir, original written in Yiddish)

Dec. 11: **Natasha and Other Stories**
by David Bezmozgis (*short stories*)

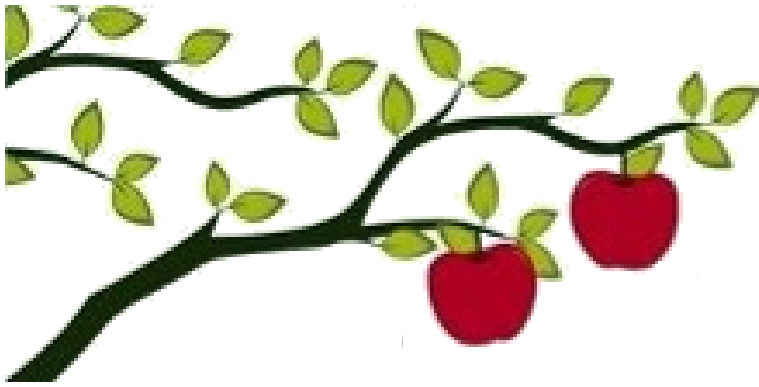
Jan. 15: **Stir: My Broken Brain and
the Meals that Brought Me Home**
by Jessica Fechter (*biography*)

March 5: **Adolfo Kaminsky: A Forger's Life**
by Sarah Kaminsky (*biography*)

May 6: **Second Person Singular**
by Sayed Kashua (*fiction*)

You may RSVP for one, some or all of these to
Ellen at egertzog@gmail.com (please put Books





Rosh Hashanah Project for Jewish Soldiers

Honey Cakes and Cookies

Needed for Care Packages

For Soldiers Overseas and in the US!

Since 2008, the Jewish Soldiers Project has been sending care packages to Jews in the military for Rosh Hashanah. The care packages include home baked honey cakes, cookies, grape juice, challah and other treats to help the soldiers celebrate Rosh Hashanah. Please help this community-wide project with donations of honey cakes and cookies!

Baked goods needed by September 18.

KEITH FREEDMAN

jewishsoldiersproject@gmail.com

Let's Bake Together

Please join Helen in baking honey cakes and cookies at her home on:

Sunday, September 18

10 a.m.— 2 p.m.

Bakers will be asked to bring an ingredient to contribute to this effort!

Please RSVP to
hkashtan@frontiernet.net and let us
know which ingredient you will bring!



Donations

Received June 9 - August 19, 2016

DAVID SOLOMON FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Irene, mother of Carol Sacks

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

Eugene Brandwein

Ronald & Jean Brandwein

Hyman & Doris Cherkasky

Theodore & Shirley C. Levy

Paul Cherkasky, my beloved brother

Theodore & Shirley C. Levy

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Sandra Cohen & family

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Michael & Toby Berke

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Mike Berke

Ron Brandwein

Neal Eckhaus

Jonahan Feldman

Tammy Hersch

Barbara Hertzog

Linda Horowitz

Howard Kashtan

Jay Molis

Daniel Nussbaum

Sharon Parkman

Linda Phillips

Leon Zoghlin

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bruce & Anne Goldin

Andrew & Karen Berger

Scott & Merrie Franklin

Bill & Ellen Gertzog

Neil & Kellie Hyman

Phil & Joanne Katzman

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

GET WELL WISHES

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Shaina Chaya bat Rivka

Richard & Joyce Towber

Harriet Driss

Ronald Bolton

MAZEL TOV

The Nussbaum Family

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

Richard & Joyce Towber

Tammy & Rob Hersch

on Riana's marriage

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

Helen and Howard Kashtan

IN HONOR OF

Meyer Levy's Special Birthday

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Sarah Eckhaus

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Hannah Hersch

Riana Hersch

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Sara Kashtan

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Louis & Shirley Grossman

Rheva & Myron Kleinberg

Carol & Judy Levy

Lauren & Marty Yesowitch

Marv & Linda Raphael

Leon & Sarisa Zoghlin

Pam Rosen, Gary, Alex, Jordan Cohen

Donations

Received June 9 - August 19, 2016

CONGRATULATIONS

Jacob Eckhaus
Samuel Kashtan
Eliana Lande
Lee Lande
Noah Meyers
Talia Smookler
Zachariah Smookler
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

MAZEL TOV

Hadassah Gavin
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

ACKNOWLEDGING

Lisa Klein's work for TBD
Fronie Hoffman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Eugene Brandwein
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man, Bruce Kielar, Roberta Kinel, Myron &
Rheva Kleinberg, Ronald & Nancy Kraus,
David & Susan Langmann

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rheva Kleinberg
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Doug Sternberg
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

IN APPRECIATION FROM

Barbara Gertzog
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Joan Papkin
Florence Phillips

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Howell, Helen S. Klein, Phillip & Susan
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Our beloved Marsha on her birthday
Harold & Dolly Fishman
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Sol Goldstrin
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Ruth Lipton on her 101st Birthday
Harold & Dolly Fishman
Dolly Fishman
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

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David Phillips
Beloved mother of Donna Rosenbaum
Sylvia Roth
Jewell Rothstein
Morris & Sylvia Lovinger

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**We've changed the
format for publishing
yahrzeit dates. The date
that appears above is
the date of observance
using the secular
calendar. These dates
match those of the**



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Minnie Dell
Max Forchheimer
William Siegel

10/16/2016

Charles Berghash
Shirley A. Frank
Esther Shaub
Oscar Skopitz

10/17/2016

Ethel Cohen
Selma Eckhaus
Lillian Grashow

10/18/2016

Nettie Rabinowitz

10/19/2016

Morris Altman
Pearl Cramer
Marsha Fishman
Arnold Fleisher
Sydney Frank
Maxwell Katz
Rachel Ojalvo

10/20/2016

Walter Kielar
Rose Shandle

10/21/2016

Lily Guttenberg
Morton Meyers
Ann Miller

10/22/2016

Pearl Gallant
Yetta Moidel
Israel Schrier
Ida Tillim
Thelma Weinstein

10/24/2016

Rabbi BenZion Moldawsky

10/26/2016

Elizabeth Mack
Bernice Raphael

10/27/2016

Irving Garey
Scott Grube
Esther Mann
Sol Moldawsky
Tillie (Toby) Rosen
Robert Shindel

10/28/2016

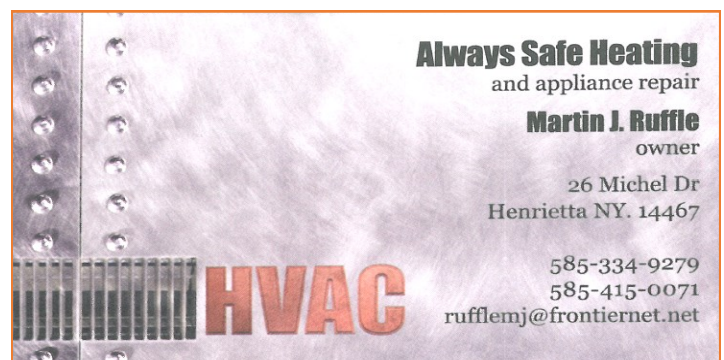
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**This issue contains information
about upcoming events,
including our newest, freshest
take on welcoming Shabbat!**

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