

## From the Rabbi's Desk

Rabbi Rachel Smookler

Rachel@Smookler.com



While studying with Leo Katzman for his Bar Mitzvah, we came across a mysterious verse in his Torah portion, Bereshit, which teaches that even before the sun, moon and stars were created, God created a primordial light. This is the sermon I delivered on the day that Leo

became a bar mitzvah:

The rabbis tell us of a spiritual, primordial light that existed before the sun and that God hid it for future use. Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav believed that this light was hidden in the stories of the Torah. Rabbi Nachman taught that if we delve deeply enough into the meaning of Torah we will reach a place where the hidden light shines forth in a moment of revelation.

Rabbinic legend tells us that before God withdrew the primordial light, he saved a bit of it inside a jewel and gave it to Adam and Eve when he cast them from the Garden of Eden. The light that shone from within it reminded them of all that they had lost. The history of this Jewel, known as the Tzohar, is as mysterious as the primordial light itself! Tzohar, a word which appears only ONCE in the Torah, is the name of the light source which was built into Noah's ark. This sacred jewel, the rabbis say, reached all the way to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. The Talmud tells us that Abraham wore this glowing stone around his neck and whoever was sick and peered into the stone was healed. Joseph used the Tzohar to divine the dream interpretations and later the stone was placed

with Joseph in his coffin. Moses recovered the stone and hung it inside the tabernacle of the Ark where it became the first Ner Tamid.

Earlier this week I might have thought that these legends were just dreams or myths, nothing real, only the imaginings of a wandering people who yearned to tie themselves back, all the way back, to creation itself. But two nights ago, I saw several hundred rays of that hidden primordial light. I witnessed the Or HaGanuz.

I attended a community vigil in Brighton. A few hundred community members showed up to show unity, to spread peace, and to uproot racism and bigotry.

Right here in our own community of Brighton/Pittsford, a group has assembled who call themselves White Rochester, whose purpose it is to network like-minded whites for the furtherance of the European-White races. Their website states that the group engages in identity creation, consciousness raising, and demographic and material advancement. As heretical thinkers in mainstream society, their effort is to shape society for a more definitive European-White future.

Just a few weeks ago, members of White Rochester placed rocks wrapped in a flyer on residents' yards and driveways, intending to gain followers and impose fear. What White-Rochester didn't count on was the response. The Community's response to their hate-filled message was swift and fierce. And it was powerful. The organizers of CURB, Community Uprooting Racism and Bigotry, brought us together in a place where I could stand side by side with my

*(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.



TEMPLE  
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# Shabbat Guest



Janet Sunkin  
President/CEO,  
Jewish Family Service



Join us for a discussion about the results of a recent study concerning Jewish poverty in Rochester featuring  
**Janet Sunkin, President/CEO, Jewish Family Service**

Saturday, February 4

Torah Study at 9 a.m., Room 202  
Shabbat Services 10 a.m.

The presentation will begin after the Torah Service, at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Join us for kiddish luncheon following services, when the conversation will continue with Ms. Sunkin.

*Need a ride?* Call the Temple Office to arrange for transportation. Our Shabbat and More Shuttle is underwritten by the Farash Foundation.

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neighbors; Muslim, Christian, Hindu, African American, Asian. It was here, among all my neighbors, that I felt truly at home. But listening to each person as they took the mic, people of various ethnicities, I heard that often they do not feel comfortable in our shared community or even in their own skin. These people, my neighbors, don't know what people in their own community are really thinking when they see a person with darker skin or different clothing. But one thing is for certain, the rallying cry that reverberated and rebounded, that echoed off of the walls of the Twelve Corners Middle School Gymnasium, was that from now on, we will take their community back, take it as our own, back from those who leave rocks and flyers in our yards.

At the very end of the vigil, Pastor Mike Boucher asked all of us to stand side by side all around the gym and to introduce ourselves to someone we didn't know. He then turned off all the lights and asked that one by one each of us turn on our vigil lights. Some people held tiny lights twisted into a Dixie cup. Some used their smart phones and others had flashlights. While an ethereally beautiful song filled the room, one by one, each light went on until at the very end we were a chain of light. But we didn't "light up" the room. It was still extremely dark and quiet but for the singing coming from the speaker. I knew these glowing rays of light were part of the hidden primordial light that had come out of hiding.

As Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav taught, if we delve deeply enough into the meaning of Torah, we will at last reach a place where the hidden light shines forth in a moment of revelation. I know that as a community, we **experienced** a revelation. *We won't tolerate hate or bigotry and we won't stand idly by when others do.*

So, do you know how to tell if the hidden light of Creation is released into our world? It won't be bright, it won't light up a room, and that's how you know it's the primordial hidden light. It lights up our consciousness.

This powerful chain of light was a symbol of the great Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav's teaching "Let the good in me connect with the good in others, until all the world is transformed through the compelling power of love."

# From the President's Desk

Andrew Berger

Andrew.Berger@rochester.edu



On November 6, we held our annual Congregational Meeting. One thing was different from years past -- we weren't meeting in the familiar sanctuary on St. Paul Boulevard. But the size of the crowd that showed up in the Elmwood Avenue atrium indicated that in more important ways, nothing

has changed. As your president, I am very grateful that we have so many people who care about the well-being of Temple Beth David.

At the meeting, we said a big thank you to Maxine Manjos and Dan Saltzman as they reached the end of their terms on the Board of Trustees. Maxine and Dan both got deeply involved in key projects as trustees, and I know their support will continue behind the scenes. Also at the meeting, Sue Lederer and Phillip Katzman agreed to extend their terms, and Keith Freedman and Stephen Papkin were voted in as new trustees. Thank you to all four of them as well! And last of all, I thank Marc Lande for stepping forward to assemble the slate of candidates, which is a trickier job than it sounds.

Discussions at the Congregational Meeting led to another congregant-driven event that just happened on December 5<sup>th</sup>: a kick-off session for planning future temple events. If you are one of those who attended, thank you

so much for getting the ball rolling. If you are reading this and want to get involved, we can certainly still use your energy! Teams are working on events for membership recruitment, temple community building, fundraising, and Tikkun Olam. Contact me or Neal Eckhaus and we'll plug you right in.

Meanwhile, in case you haven't had the chance to notice: renovation of our new sanctuary space has really, truly, actually begun! As I write this, wallpaper has been stripped from the walls, painting has commenced, and carpeting is about to be ripped out. There are still many weeks of work to go, but since you want an estimate (admit it), I'll say it will likely be done by the latter half of February. Believe me, when you look at how many person-hours went into getting to this point, it's very exciting that the physical work has started.

All signs therefore point towards a major celebration in the spring to dedicate our newly renovated space. We will have a special opportunity to (re)introduce ourselves to the Rochester Jewish community. As the well-known saying goes, you only get to make a new impression once every fifty years, right?? So stay tuned as we develop the agenda for a dedication weekend – or better yet, get in touch with me or with Rebecca Weber in the office, and let us know how you'd like to play a role. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

-- Andrew Berger

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

**[www.tbdrochester.org](http://www.tbdrochester.org)**

# All in the Family

## January Birthdays

Sarah Wolbert	Jan 1
Aaron Freedman	Jan 3
Paul Eissenstat	Jan 8
Bruce Goldin	Jan 8
Harold Feinberg	Jan 9
Hannah Eckhaus	Jan 12
Melissa Meynadasy	Jan 16
Dorothy Sherr	Jan 16
Fronie Hoffman	Jan 17
David Langmann	Jan 18
Dorothy Schiller	Jan 19
Felice Harris	Jan 21
Mindy Zoghlin	Jan 23
Linda Servetnick	Jan 23
Sarisa Zoghlin	Jan 27
Annette Shapiro	Jan 28

**Belated birthday wishes  
to Joan Papkin**

## February Birthdays

Marc Lande	Feb 2
Bonnie Abrams-Rich	Feb 3
Marlena Berger	Feb 10
Millicent Ritz	Feb 13
Susan Langmann	Feb 14
Rae Fleisher	Feb 16
Gabriel Franklin	Feb 17
Thomas Wolbert	Feb 18
Helen Kashtan	Feb 23
Arthur Bernberg	Feb 27

## Anniversary

Harold & Dolly Fishman Jan 25

## Thank You

Thank you to **Irv Mindlin** for sponsoring a kiddish in honor of his 90th birthday.

Thank you to **Barbara Gertzog** for sponsoring a kiddish in memory of Louis Gertzog.

Thank you to **Kevin McTighe** for sponsoring a kiddish in thanks to the many friends who helped during Harriet Driss' hard times this year.

Thank you to **Pam Rosen and Alex and Jordan Cohen** for sponsoring a cholent in honor of Gary's birthday.

Thank you to **Scott and Lori Davis** for sponsoring a kiddish in honor of Elena Davis' reading of the haftarah.

## Condolences

To the family of Louis Grossman

## SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Card Message:

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

- ☐ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Congratulations on \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |  |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiva Chevra Fund                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund          | <input type="checkbox"/> Gilbert Rosenbaum Cultural/Ritual Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund     | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Repair Fund                      |

*Come One, Come All to the Temple Hall  
We'll Eat and Drink  
And Have a Ball!!*



**For a Jewish Music  
Magical Mystery Tour**



*(the guys will be preparing the food!)*

**Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 6:00 pm**

**Havdalah with Dinner to follow**

**In the Atrium**

*After dinner, we will go back in time,  
listening to the music of years gone by.*

**RSVP to the Temple Office 266-3223 before January 14th**

To help cook contact Marc Lande at 899-6797 [landeserv@gmail.com](mailto:landeserv@gmail.com)  
or Jonathan Papkin at 576-0130 [Jpapkin@aol.com](mailto:Jpapkin@aol.com)

For music requests or questions contact Lee Sigelow at 709-4938  
[lsknujmail@gmail.com](mailto:lsknujmail@gmail.com)



TEMPLE BETH DAVID





# 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!***

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 7: **Second Person Singular**  
by Sayed Kashua (*fiction*)

You may RSVP for one, some or all of these  
to Ellen:

[egertzog@gmail.com](mailto:egertzog@gmail.com) (please put Books and  
Brunch in the subject line) or 461-4336



It was just deLIGHTful making the Hanukkah Stained Glass Cookies at Rabbi's house.

I first heard about these cookies when I was teaching in Minnesota.

It is a tradition that comes from Holland which I am thrilled to bring to TBD. It was a complete success!

We also had our Ticket-Tally.

Fondest wishes for a bright, warm Hanukkah with family and friends.

- Alice Nussbaum



# Donations

Received October 20, 2016 - December 15, 2016

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## DAVID SOLOMON FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Pearl Gallant  
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Hyman Goldman  
Sylvia Stiller

Izzy Rubenstein  
Howard & Helen Kashtan

Bob Hirschberg  
Annette Applebaum

Michael Simon  
Sandra Cohen & family

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Irv Mindlin  
Lilly Sherman  
Blanche Weltman

Annette Strassman  
Neil Hyman  
Phil Katzman  
Ed Drexler  
Linda Raphael  
Scott Franklin  
Maureen Rosenbaum  
Pam Rosen & Gary Cohen

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dan & Risa Saltzman  
Helen & Howard Kashtan  
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

### BEST WISHES

Milt & Dorothy Smith  
Annette Applebaum

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### IN MEMORY OF

Donald Gallant  
Annette Applebaum  
Ruth Shechet  
Kevin & Judy Fleissig

Bill Newman  
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& Erwin Moss

Julia Stiller  
Sylvia Stiller

Rose Rothschild  
Hyman Rothschild  
Fronie Hoffman

Marie Neuberg  
Fay Neuberg

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Irving Mindlin  
Fronie Hoffman

Rabbi Aviva Berg  
Gary Cohen  
Phil Katzman  
Merrie Franklin  
Stephen Papkin  
Scott & Lori Davis

Tali Phillips  
Matthew Molis  
Lori Davis  
Scott Davis  
Joan Papkin  
Stephen Papkin  
Rabbi Aviva Berg  
Pam Rosen, Gary, Alex & Jordan Cohen

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Adele Gan  
Harry Gan  
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Shirley Grossman  
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

### IN APPRECIATION OF

Pam Rosen & Gary Cohen  
Scott & Lori Davis

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Harriet Lampert  
Donna Golden

Blanche Saltzman  
Dan & Risa Saltzman

Louis Leitman  
Henry & Sheila Markowitz

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Mildred Levy  
Theodore & Shirley Levy

Jessie Cohen  
Eli Rothstein  
Bill & Lisa Keeley

Nathan Neuberg  
Fay Neuberg

Shirley Schnidman  
Frank Schnidman

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Irv Mindlin  
Sharon Wolsky & Nancy Harris

### IN APPRECIATION FROM

Ruth Kramer  
Mark & Mona Kolko  
Phil & Joanne Katzman  
Jeffrey & Cynthia Hirschberg  
Harold & Rhea Feinberg  
Lisa Fogel

## HERB KRAUS ADULT EDUCATION FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Michael J. Greenberg  
Harry H. Stein  
Marsha Greenberg & family



# Donations

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## MARSHA FISHMAN EDUCATION FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Arlene Pollan  
Gertrude Boyer  
Anna Fishman  
Marge Gould Panitch  
Al Sheinfeld  
Harold & Dolly Fishman  
Bob Hirschberg  
Milt & Dorothy Smith

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Debbie Gordon  
Harold & Dolly Fishman

### SPEEDY RECOVERY

Bernie Hurvitz  
Harold & Dolly Fishman

## TORAH FUND

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CINDI HALPERN  
Pam Rosen, Gary, Alex & Jordan

### ROSENBAUM FUND

IMO EVELYN LOVINGER  
Morris & Sylvia Lovinger

## SOLDIERS FUND

### IN APPRECIATION OF

Pam Rosen & Gary Cohen  
Harriet Driss & Kevin McTighe

## PRAYER BOOKS

### IN MEMORY OF

Jewel Rothstein  
Bill & Lisa Keeley / David Rothstein

### IN HONOR OF

Leo Katzman's Bar Mitzvah

## SHIVA CHEVRA FUND

### IN MEMORY OF

Joseph A. Klein  
Helen S. Klein

*Welcome!*  
ברוכים הבאים

Please welcome new members  
to the Temple Beth David Congregation:

Ethan and Ruth Aranov

Shelly and Julian Braiman

Robert Dworkin and Sharon Gordon

Ronald and Carol Schott

# Yahrzeits

Date Observed

**1/1/2017**

Maurice Garey  
Irene Herman  
Barnet Selby

**1/2/2017**

Anna Robbins

**1/3/2017**

Lillian Mountain

**1/4/2017**

Fanny Rosen  
Michal (bat Moshe) Tal

**1/5/2017**

Mac Gan  
Jack Hoffman  
Elsie Perlman

**1/7/2017**

Marvin Frank

**1/8/2017**

Annette Formicola  
Herbert Rubin  
Rabbi Abraham Rubin  
Serafine Rubin  
Lena Testa

**1/9/2017**

Eugene Rosenbaum

**1/10/2017**

Ann Cohn  
Sandra Garey Kaye

**1/11/2017**

Morris Schnidman

**1/12/2017**

Bella Nussbaum  
Nissim Ojalvo  
Solomon Phillips  
Sharon Garey Slavin

**1/13/2017**

Jean Levy Gan  
Ben Passer

**1/14/2017**

Sam Cohen  
Paul Newman

**1/15/2017**

Anna Alva  
Sylvia Meyers

**1/16/2017**

Martin Roth

**1/17/2017**

Max Gross  
Estelle Hirsch  
Abraham Lutsky  
David Przewuzman  
Doris Pulvino  
Sally Shilman

**1/19/2017**

Mowey Presberg  
Eugene Roth

**1/20/2017**

Milton Lande

**1/22/2017**

Sheldon Feuerstein  
Minnie Flaxman  
Aaron Goldenberg  
Donna Wexler Larca

**1/23/2017**

Sheldon Himmelstein  
Reuben Robbins

**1/24/2017**

Esther Prives

**1/25/2017**

Rae Goldman  
Herbert Kraus  
Max Schwartz

**1/26/2017**

George Geiger  
Arthur P. Long

**1/27/2017**

Blanche Levine  
Benjamin Rosenbaum

**1/28/2017**

Esther Aroesty

**1/30/2017**

Milton Grossman  
Yuda Kinel  
L. Grant Meeker  
William Zivan

**2/1/2017**

Max Mendell Feldman  
Norman Gildman

**2/2/2017**

Louis Pulvino  
Ada Rosenthal  
Abe Rousso

**2/3/2017**

Louis Egar  
Abe A Hersch  
Sidney Weinstein

**2/4/2017**

Arthur Bauman  
Ida Gertzog  
Laurie Feuerstein Walsh

**2/5/2017**

Julius Himmelstein  
Max Ostroff  
Regina Schier

**2/6/2017**

Bertha Dobkin  
Daniel Hirsch  
Adelaide Kalin

**2/8/2017**

Minnie Haymoff

**2/9/2017**

Judy Craw  
Morris Klein  
George Moidel  
Lee Schwartz  
Don Vanas

**2/10/2017**

Dorothy Schwartz

**The yahrzeit date that appears above is the date of observance using the secular calendar. These dates match those of the Hebrew calendar for the actual date of death.**



## Psychotherapy Services

Lisa A. Fogel, LCSW-R

Tobey Village Corporate Center  
20 Office Park Way, Pittsford NY 14534

Phone: 585 (474-0356)

# Yahrzeits

Date Observed

**2/11/2017**

Ida Skopitz

**2/12/2017**

Charles Jaffey

**2/14/2017**

Pauline Eve Chait

**2/15/2017**

Charles Conwell  
Garson Kleinberg  
Davis Nussbaum  
Alfred Stiller

**2/16/2017**

Max Gordon  
Paul Lunken  
Harry Sigelow

**2/17/2017**

Miriam Bauman  
Samuel Chait  
David Garey  
Rose Kurlanshik  
Alexander Phillips  
Rose Shear  
Abraham Wasserman

**2/18/2017**

Dorothy Silberberg

**2/20/2017**

Rose Grossman  
Rose Kessler  
Edith Kopen  
Florence Levinson

**2/21/2017**

Gertrude Goldberg

**2/22/2017**

Herman Miller

**2/25/2017**

Minnie Millelstein  
Sidney Schatz  
Julius Sherman

**2/27/2017**

Sarah Feldman  
Lea Grunspan  
Frank Sherman  
Fanny Simon Passer

**2/28/2017**

Rose Ambush  
David Lustik



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community information.**

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### Temple Office Manager:

Rebecca Weber 585-266-3223

[office@tbdrochester.org](mailto:office@tbdrochester.org)

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### Temple Funds:

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