Growing up in Cape Town, South Africa, Rabbi Michael Silbert didn’t envision becoming a rabbi. The Jewish community is structured differently there compared to the United States. While an undergraduate at the University of Cape Town, he became involved in Jewish life and a visiting professor from Brandeis University encouraged him to consider graduate school at the Boston campus. With every intention of returning to South Africa, Rabbi Silbert began his Master’s studies at Brandeis in 1994. He earned degrees in Jewish Professional Leadership and Non-Profit Management and began his career in the Jewish community. While working in Financial Resource Development at Boston University Hillel, he realized “that I really wanted and needed to be working with Jewish students, their Jewish lives and their Jewish growth.”

During this period, Rabbi Silbert met Rachel Kest, a religious school director (at the time) whom he would eventually marry. “One day Rachel called and needed me to substitute for a teacher for sixth grade Hebrew,” says Rabbi Silbert of the position he thought would be temporary. “It lasted six years and I really enjoyed it. Along the way, I began teaching Hebrew to adults. These were people still interested in growing and learning about themselves in the Jewish world.”

At age 35, and “married, with a new born and a mortgage, I realized that becoming a rabbi made sense for me, even if the timing didn’t!” says Rabbi Silbert. While a Conservative-movement rabbinical school would have been an obvious initial choice for him, he learned about and explored the newly established Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in his then hometown of Boston, a unique, Jewishly pluralistic five-year program which was about to graduate its first class.

“There was an open house weekend and I saw that many students were in their 40s, 50s and 60s, embarking on second careers. This convinced me that I could do this,” says Rabbi Silbert. “The school was a great environment, and we could stay in Boston. Through internships, I had the opportunity to connect with Jews at all points. Young children, high school, college, families, empty nesters, the elderly. The variety was meaningful and engaging.”

Pastoral care is one of the most important aspects of the rabbinate for Rabbi Silbert. “My experiences surrounding the loss of my mother when I was a teenager taught me that pastoral care is not something that all rabbis are comfortable with, even though it ought to be one of the most important areas of their jobs,” says Rabbi Silbert. “My chaplaincy internship at a hospital in Boston was key to this aspect of my own personal growth. You learn when to talk, when to stay quiet. You have to know that you may not have the answers. As my teacher Rabbi Arthur Green once said, ‘there are times when love is all you have to offer.’”

As Rabbi Silbert looks ahead to his position at Temple Beth David, he comments, “Relationships. That is the single most important thing. It’s not always about programming, it’s about building meaningful Jewish relationships. People don’t have relationships with synagogues, they have relationships with people.”

To accomplish this, he says, people have to be made to feel welcome, to feel wanted and to give them a reason to return. “We will wait a long time if we are waiting for them to come to us, to temples,” he says. “We need to go to them. Invite them personally into our lives. I am excited to get to do this work that means so much to me, to enter a place that values community.”

More importantly, Rabbi Silbert understands the core of Temple Beth David. “We have a lot to offer. Jewish life has a lot to offer. It’s a good place to make it all happen.”

***

Rabbi Silbert and Rachel, who is Director of Education and Engagement at the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, have two children: Elie (Elijah) and Davi (Nadav); and a dog, Golda, whom Rabbi says was named for a strong Jewish woman.

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.
Greetings from the other side of the High Holidays! I hope you had a meaningful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Our second year at Temple Sinai went smoothly, and it was enjoyable to hold the second day of Rosh Hashanah in our own sanctuary. Rabbi Silbert and Cantor Graber put in a lot of early planning to blend their talents for the first time, and we are so thankful to both of them for leading us in prayer and song. I, of course, got an extra kick out of hearing Henry (my son) blowing the shofar this year!

Speaking of Rabbi Silbert, this is my first Bulletin message in which he is our full-time rabbi. He joined us in this official capacity on September 6. As I said at High Holidays, I look forward to many of you meeting him and sharing your stories with him. I know he is especially interested in setting up visits with congregants outside of temple, particularly those who are not easily able to travel. Many of you will be hearing from Rabbi Silbert, I’m sure, but you can always call Rebecca in the office (266-3223) to request a visit from him, too.

Although we’ve fully renovated our space on Elmwood Avenue, you may have noticed that a lot of the walls are still bare. Most of our artwork from Irondequoit is still in storage. It is now time to figure out what to do with it—which pieces will be mounted permanently, which will be in a rotation, and which need to leave the building. The planning process is underway. People care greatly about artwork and memorial plaques, and it would be wonderful to get as much community input as possible. I want to make sure that as many people are as happy as possible with the decision-making!

And how can you most easily get involved with all sorts of temple-related decision-making? By coming to our annual Congregational Meeting, of course! It is on Sunday, October 29 at 11am, in the sanctuary. This would be a great time to express your thoughts about artwork, events you’d like us to hold, and less weighty matters such as, say, the future of our congregation as a whole. There will be a financial report, and there will be an election for board members. What’s not to like? I hope to see you there.

Because the Congregational Meeting is in our sanctuary, it does require getting up to the second floor. For some of you, the elevator is the best way to get there. I know that it is off-putting to arrive at temple in need of the elevator and not be confident that anyone will realize you are there. To try to improve the experience, we recently installed a doorbell in TBD’s entrance (Entrance A) that rings and flashes discreetly in the sanctuary. It is not disruptive of services, but it lets nearby people know that someone wants to be met. I hope people will use this system, including for the Congregational Meeting; we are still testing it. We are doing what we can to make you confident that your arrival at TBD will go smoothly and that you’ll be met promptly by someone who can guide you to the elevator and operate it for you.

Our next Friday Night Fresh will be on November 17. Hope to see you all there for local food, song, and a welcoming of Shabbat!

Lastly, we continue to wish Rabbi Smookler a strong recovery from her recent stroke. I know that everyone has been concerned about her, and we are all so glad that she is out of the hospital and gaining speed steadily. You may continue to send cards and letters to the front office if you would like us to send them to the Smooklers.

Shana Tovah,

Andrew
**All in the Family**

**November Birthdays**

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<td>Hanan Dery</td>
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<td>Cindy Halpern</td>
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<td>Scott Franklin</td>
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<td>Tali Phillips</td>
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<td>Harry Gan</td>
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**December Birthdays**

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<td>Lori Davis</td>
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<td>Adele Gan</td>
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<td>Stephen Papkin</td>
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<td>Gary Cohen</td>
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<td>Liat Seagal-Dery</td>
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<td>Phil Katzman</td>
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<td>Joan Papkin</td>
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<td>Shirley Grossman</td>
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<td>Sue Drexler</td>
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<td>Neil Hyman</td>
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<td>Alex Cohen</td>
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<td>Maayan Dery</td>
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<td>Rabbi Aviva Berg</td>
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<td>Merrie Franklin</td>
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**Anniversaries**

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<td>Dan &amp; Risa Saltzman</td>
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<td>Ira &amp; Sherry Goldman</td>
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<td>Howard &amp; Helen Kashtan</td>
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**SAVE THE DATE**

Our annual Chanukah party will take place on Saturday, December 16. Additional details will follow.

Happy 90th Birthday to Max Grossman from Ginny and Irv Gordon

---

**Books & Brunch**

**Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog**

69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

**Sundays @ 10 a.m. – noon Open to the community!**

- Nov. 12: **A Tale of Love and Darkness** by Amos Oz
- Jan. 21: **Sisters In Law: How Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World** by Linda Hirshman
- Mar. 4: **My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me** by Jennifer Teege
- May 6: **Guide for the Perplexed** by Dara Horn

RSVP by the Wednesday before to Ellen Gertzog 461-4336/egertzog@gmail.com
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 $10, or two 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 of ____________________________
☐ Congratulations on ______________________

Note: __________________________________________________________________________________

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

☐ David Solomon Fund
☐ Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund
☐ Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
☐ Mitzvah/Kiddush Fund
☐ Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund
☐ Rabbi Skopitz Fund
☐ Soldier’s Project Fund
☐ Torah Repair Fund

Donations and dues payments can now be accepted online! Visit our DONATE page at www.tbdrochester.org

Please complete all information requested and include details in the NOTES area about your donation, including which fund, who the card is being sent to and why! Online donations are a minimum of $10, please.

Welcome Shabbat with Friday Night Fresh and enjoy a Fall-inspired dinner

Friday, November 17  6:30 pm

$12 donation per person

RSVP by Friday November 10 to office@tbdrochester.org or call 585.626.3223
Donations

Received August 16, 2017 - October 15, 2017

DAVID SOLOMON FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Annette Shapiro
   Robert & Hedria Saltzman
   Barbara & Marvin Gray
   Annette Applebaum
   Susan & Phillip Lederer
   Bernie Roth
   Howard & Helen Kashtan
   Cynthia Halpern
Baruch Eichenbaum
   Lilly Sherman
Eunice Freedman
   Marvin & Marcia Davis
Fronie Hoffman
   Susan & Phillip Lederer
   Bernie Roth
   Marvin & Marcia Davis
   Richard & Joyce Towber
Rose Gordon
Pearl Gallant
   Elaine Gallant
Granny Gavin
Reva Kerker
   Cynthia Halpern
Ronald Bolton
   Cynthia Halpern
   Pam Rosen & Gary Cohen
   Bernie Roth
   Richard & Joyce Towber
Arnold Fleisher
   Rae Fleisher
Beatrice Goldman
Arthur Goldman
   Ira & Sherry Goldman
Hermine Cohen
   Pam Rosen, Alex, Jordan &
   Gary Cohen
Thomasenia Green Fullwood
   Richard & Joyce Towber

IN APPRECIATION OF TEMPLE

Sylvia Stiller

CONGRATULATIONS

Gary Cohen
   Marvin & Marcia Davis

GET WELL WISHES

Rabbi Rachel Smookler
   Roberta Feldman
   Harry & Adele Gan
   Jamie Edwards
   Rena Glaser
   Howard & Helen Kashtan
   Paul & Judy Eisenstat
   Nancy Berg
   Irving Mindlin
   Lilly Sherman
   Maxine Newman
   Cynthia Halpern
   Bernie Roth
   Marvin & Marcia Davis
Anne Goldin
   Cynthia Halpern

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Brandon Davis
   Marvin & Marcia Davis
Judy Eisenstat (90th!)
   Reva Sipser

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Ellen Gertzog
   Richard & Joyce Towber

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Bill & Ellen Gertzog
Howard & Helen Kashtan
Lewis Rothberg & Shelby Nelson
Dan & Risa Saltzman
Maxine Manjos
Bruce & Teresa Kieler
Dan & Alice Nussbaum
Steven Meyers & Barbara Weber

WELCOME RABBI SILBERT

Marvin & Marcia Davis
Lilly Sherman

MITZVAH KIDDUSH FUND

IN HONOR OF

Sue Lederer’s Haftorah Reading
Bar Mitzvah Anniversary
   Sid Markus
   Dan Nussbaum
      Richard & Joyce Towber

IN MEMORY OF

Thomasenia Green Fullwood
   Pam Rosen, Gary, Alex &
   Jordan Cohen
Meyer Neuberg
Chana Neuberg
   Fay Neuberg
Blanche Saltzman
   Daniel & Risa Saltzman

GET WELL WISHES

Rabbi Rachel Smookler
   Rhea Feinberg

MARSHA FISMAN

EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Marsha Ivy Fishman
Annette Shapiro
   Harold & Dolly Fishman
Annette Shapiro
   Milt & Dorothy Smith

GET WELL WISHES

Rabbi Rachel Smookler
   Harold & Dolly Fishman
Dolly Fishman
   Milt & Dorothy Smith

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY

FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Annette Shapiro
   Myron & Rheva Kleinberg
Minnie Caplin
Fannie Caplin
John Schnidman
   Frank Schnidman
Pearl Gallant
   Annette Applebaum

GET WELL WISHES

Rabbi Rachel Smookler
   Rebecca Weber
   Burt & Marilyn Segelin
**Donations**

**MAZEL TOV**
Rabbi Michael Silbert
Philliipa Jacobson

**IN HONOR OF**
Rabbi Rachel Smookler
Rhea Feinberg

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN**
Sharon Alva

**RABBI SKOPITZ FUND**
**IN MEMORY OF**
Gertrude Toole
Sanford Toole
Jeanne Caplan
Julian & Shelly Braiman
Reva Kerker
Pam Rosen, Gary, Alex & Jordan Cohen
Oscar Skopitz
Ruth Roth Somers
Linda Roth

**GET WELL WISHES**
Rabbi Rachel Smookler
Linda Roth

**SOLDIERS FUND**
**IN MEMORY OF**
Lois Wexler Markus
Sid Markus

Donate online at www.tbdrochester.org

Special thanks to those who provided funds so that we all could enjoy beautiful flowers during the High Holiday services:

Mike and Toby Berke
Cindy Halpern
Bernie Roth
Thank you very much.

Our thanks to Rabbi Silbert for leading services and delivering inspiring sermons, Rachel Gruber for sharing her gift of music, and Henry Berger for his powerful and melodic shofar blowing.

Additional thanks to VP of Ritual, Gary Cohen, President, Andrew Berger, and Rebecca Weber, Karen Berger and Steve Zajac for ensuring that our services and locations were organized!

**Annual Congregational Meeting**
Temple Beth David's annual meeting will be held on October 29 at 11 AM in the sanctuary. This is your chance to hear reports from the Board of Trustees, voice your opinions, and vote for candidates to be on the Board. If you have any issues to raise in advance, contact the office and we will take them into account.

Come visit the new temple library during office hours, Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Yahrzeits</th>
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<td>Claire Engel</td>
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<td>Donald Gallant</td>
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<td>Molly Cherry</td>
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HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) is United States legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information. Hospitals are no longer permitted to contact the temple office to notify us of admitted congregants. Please contact the office with family news.

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.
### Yahrzeits

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**Do you receive our Weekly News email?**

If not, you are missing out on the latest news about Temple Beth David services and events, as well as community information.

**Call or email the Temple Office to add your name**

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**Rochester’s Jewish Funeral Home**

Establishing a New Tradition

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- Finance: Scott Franklin
- Ritual: Gary Cohen
- Education: Howard Brill
- Building: Scott Davis, Ed Drexler
- Recording Secretary: Marc Lande

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Scott Bauman, Michael Berke, Neal Eckhaus, Keith Freedman, Ellen Gertzog, Philip Katzman, Sue Lederer, Alice Nussbaum, Joan Papkin, Stephen Papkin, Lewis Rothberg

Temple Activity Chairs:

Book of Remembrance: Helen Kashtan
Website Coordinator: Barbara Grosh

Temple Office Manager:
Rebecca Weber  585-266-3223

office@tbdrochester.org
www.tbdrochester.org
Find us on Facebook!

Temple Funds:

- David Solomon Operating Fund
  Supports General Temple Expenses & Maintenance
- Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
- Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund
  Supports Hebrew School & Youth Educational Activities
- Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund
  Supports Adult Learning & Community Events
- Rabbi Skopitz Fund
  Supports Cultural Events
- Torah Repair Fund
  Supports Maintenance and Repair of Torah Scrolls
- Soldier’s Project