

## From the Rabbi

**Michael Silbert**

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



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."

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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.



## News from the President, Andrew Berger

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 more 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 to 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

Maureen Rosenbaum	November 21
Hanan Dery	November 22
Cindy Halpern	November 22
Scott Franklin	November 26
Tali Phillips	November 27
Harry Gan	November 28

## Anniversaries

Dan & Risa Saltzman	November 3
Ira & Sherry Goldman	November 4
Howard & Helen Kashtan	November 29



## SAVE THE DATE

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

## December Birthdays

Annette Strassman	December 1
Lori Davis	December 2
Adele Gan	December 4
Stephen Papkin	December 5
Gary Cohen	December 9
Liat Seagal-Dery	December 10
Phil Katzman	December 11
Sharon Alva	December 12
Joan Papkin	December 21
Shirley Grossman	December 22
Sue Drexler	December 27
Neil Hyman	December 27
Alex Cohen	December 29
Jordan Cohen	December 29
Scott Davis	December 29
Maayan Dery	December 29
Rabbi Aviva Berg	December 30
Merrie Franklin	December 31

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!**

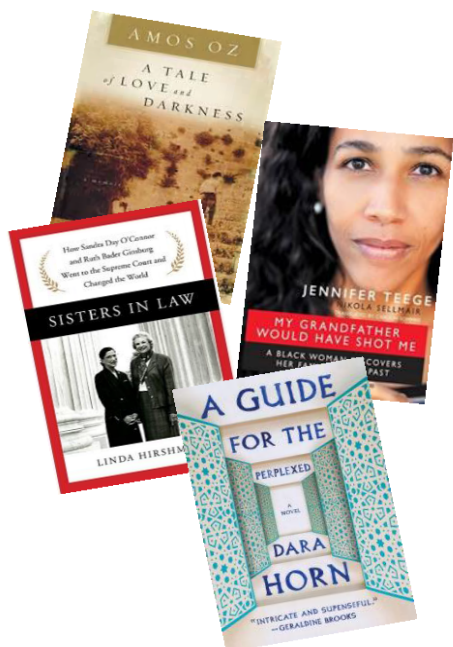
Nov. 12: **A Tale of Love and Darkness** by Amos Oz

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](mailto: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.)

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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 Fund.

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Donations and dues payments can now be accepted online! Visit our  
DONATE page at [www.tbdrochester.org](http://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](mailto:office@tbdrochester.org) or call 585.626.3223**

# Donations

Received August 16, 2017 - October 15, 2017

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## 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

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Lilly Sherman

#### **Eunice Freedman**

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#### **Beatrice Goldman**

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#### **Hermine Cohen**

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Gary Cohen

#### **Thomasenia Green Fullwood**

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### 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 Eissenstat  
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 Eissenstat (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 Kielar**

#### **Dan & Alice Nussbaum**

#### **Steven Meyers & Barbara Weber**

### WELCOME RABBI SILBERT

#### **Marvin & Marcia Davis**

Lilly Sherman

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### IN HONOR OF

#### **Sue Lederer's Haftorah Reading**

#### **Bar Mitzvah Anniversary**

Sid Markus

Dan Nussbaum

Richard & Joyce Towber

### IN MEMORY OF

#### **Thomasenia Green Fullwood**

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Jordan Cohen

#### **Meyer Neuberger**

#### **Chana Neuberger**

Fay Neuberger

#### **Blanche Saltzman**

Daniel & Risa Saltzman

### GET WELL WISHES

#### **Rabbi Rachel Smookler**

Rhea Feinberg

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## EDUCATION FUND

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#### **Marsha Ivy Fishman**

#### **Annette Shapiro**

Harold & Dolly Fishman

#### **Annette Shapiro**

Milt & Dorothy Smith

### GET WELL WISHES

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Harold & Dolly Fishman

#### **Dolly Fishman**

Milt & Dorothy Smith

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#### **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

Received August 16, 2017 - October 15, 2017

## MAZEL TOV

Rabbi Michael Silbert  
Philippa Jacobson

## IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Rachel Smookler  
Rhea Feinberg

## PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Sharon Alva

## **RABBI SKOPITZ FUND**

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Gertrude Toole

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## GET WELL WISHES

Rabbi Rachel Smookler

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Lois Wexler Markus

Sid Markus

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Come visit the new temple library during office hours,  
Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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

**Mike and Toby Berke**

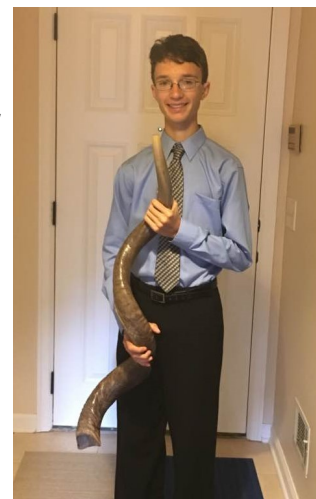
**Cindy Halpern**

**Bernie Roth**

Thank you very much.

Our thanks to **Rabbi Silbert** for leading services and delivering inspiring sermons, **Rachel Graber** 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.

# Yahrzeits

Date Observed

## November 1

Rose Babin

## November 2

Joseph Phillips

## November 3

Irwin Halpern  
Louis Leitman  
Jacob Rubin

## November 4

Helen Bolton  
Dory M. Driss  
Marge Panitch

## November 5

Max Raphael  
Philip Weinstein

## November 6

Henry Toole  
Ruth Wolinsky

## November 7

Mildred Gilman  
Ruth Kaplan  
Irving Roth

## November 8

Jesse Berkov  
Helen Fineman  
Harold Gertzog  
William Isaacson

## November 9

Jeannette Erlichman

## November 11

Virginia Erlichman  
Sylvia Moss

## November 12

Esther Conwell Rothberg  
Anne Owerbach  
Ruth Shechet

## November 13

James Alva

## November 14

Claire Engel

## November 15

Donald Gallant  
Joseph Klein  
Belle Kleinberg

## November 16

Molly Cherry  
Robert Newman

## November 18

Leon Alent  
Joseph Levy

## November 19

Helen Forchheimer

## November 20

David Candles

## November 22

Evelyn Lovinger

## November 23

Ray Schatz

## November 24

Minnie Gan Kotzin  
Benjamin Markowitz  
Barnet Rothstein

## November 25

Abe Fishman

## November 26

Myron Grashow  
Pauline Markowitz

## November 27

Howard Goldenberg  
Ruth Goldstein

## November 28

Jessie Cohen

## November 29

Bany Cohen  
Lois Schwartz

## November 30

Abe Aroesty  
Mildred Levy

## December 1

Max Robbins  
Julius Robbins  
Eli Rothstein  
Shirley T. Schnidman

## December 3

Esther Lederman



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.**



## 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

**December 4**

Ruth Lederer

**December 5**

Herbert Goldberg  
Jacob Kreag

**December 6**

Max Roth  
Harry Stein

**December 7**

Marsha Fishman  
Arnold Fleisher  
Marie Goldwasser  
Max Rosenthal  
Arnold Shapiro

**December 8**

Michael Greenberg

**December 9**

Sara Gorelick

**December 10**

Elsie Grashow  
Ira Kinel

**December 11**

Leonard Gordon

**December 12**

Max Ambush

**December 13**

Abraham Berkov  
Max Berson  
Rosalie Bloom  
Laurence Skopitz

**December 14**

Nathan Goldwasser

**December 15**

Tibey Porrath  
Abe Testa

**December 16**

Muriel Katz  
Dora Lutzky

**December 17**

Lillian Bridge  
Louis Levin  
Julia Stiller

**December 18**

Sheldon Harris

**December 19**

Samuel Herman  
Edith Levy  
Paul Vanas

**December 20**

Bernard Bernberg  
Ben Drexler  
Fajwel Kinel

**December 21**

Maurice Garey  
Irene Herman  
Barnet Selby

**December 22**

Anna Robbins

**December 23**

Lillian Mountain

**December 24**

Fanny Rosen  
Michal Tal

**December 25**

Mac Gan  
Jack Hoffman  
Elsie Perlman

**December 26**

Edward Driss

**December 27**

Marvin Frank

**December 28**

Annette Formicola  
Herbert Rubin  
Rabbi Abraham Rubin  
Serafine Rubin  
Lena Testa

**December 29**

Eugene Rosenbaum

**December 30**

Ann Cohn  
Sandra Garey Kaye

**December 31**

Morris Schnidman



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**Call or email the  
Temple Office  
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[office@tbdrochester.org](mailto:office@tbdrochester.org)

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