

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

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A song was released in 2006 that attempted to present a lighthearted look at *Pesach* and the sometimes lengthy *seder*: “*They Tried to Kill Us, We Survived, Let’s Eat.*”

Humor notwithstanding, this understanding of Jewish life and experience is what the renowned scholar of Jewish History, Salo Baron, referred to as the “lachrymose conception of Jewish History”: the belief held by many that persecution and suffering are the main forces to have shaped Jewish History. Nowhere in the title of that recent song is a reminder that on *Pesach* we also were liberated, we were redeemed, we celebrated and we were overjoyed!

It is true that there have been painfully difficult periods in our collective Jewish History, the most unimaginable of which, the *Shoah* (Holocaust), is still within living memory. Memory plays an integral role in Jewish communal life, as well

it should, which is why we establish monuments to the past – be they experiential monuments such as a *seder*, or monuments of stone – so that we never forget. We never forget what occurred and we never forget who the people were who endured those experiences.

Strongly identifying Jews, whether Jewish from birth or by choice, often operate in the world with the sense that we are nothing without our past; that an instrumental part of the Jewish experience is for us to know who we are by understanding where we’ve come from and how we got here. This awareness serves as a compass, informing our choices and keeping us on the path.

But in an age of infinite choices and options, and in a country where we are free to be whoever we want to be, memory and the past are no longer sufficient to guarantee our future. As humorous as that song from 2006 might be, if we continue to see and promote Jewish life only as a return to a place of tragedy and misery, I’m afraid that the Jewish future will be quite bleak.

The challenge then for the Jewish world is to get in touch with Jewish joy; to grow from learning and

understanding and experiencing the deep well of meaningful opportunities and *simchah* (joy, celebration) that Jewish life offers. It’s not that we need to contrive this atmosphere out of nowhere; rather, it’s an authentic gift that has the capacity to keep on giving.

In the few short months that I have been the rabbi of Temple Beth David, it has been my distinct pleasure to find great joy and meaning within our walls, and it’s a joy we need to share with others out there. Our congregation might be on the smaller side, but its heart is huge and warm. This is a place where people experience joy through community, joy through learning, joy through belonging, joy through song, joy through meeting and greeting, joy through tradition, joy through renewal, joy through finding a synagogue that feels like home.

It is a place where, quite simply, people experience the joy of being Jewish.

Come join in (and bring a friend)!

Bivrachah – with blessings,

Rabbi Michael Silbert



News from the President Andrew Berger

Happy Chanukah! Depending upon the speed of the mail delivery (and I know from Scott Bauman that the mail carriers are doing all they can at this busy time of year), you might be reading this before the Temple Beth David Chanukah party happens on Saturday, December 16. If so, I hope you will be joining in the fun of latke-judging, song-singing, and (of course) food-eating. The judging starts at 5:30, and the party proper gets underway at 6:15. Thank you in advance to new member Jacqui Lipschitz for her spirited leadership of this community event. (And if you're reading this *after* the party happened, I hope you enjoyed attending it, or at least saw some festive pictures afterwards.)

Recently the Rochester area was accepted into an unusual training program. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, a philanthropic agency, selects a new cohort of Jewish communities each year and helps them to plan for long-term stability. Rochester was one of the communities selected this year. Individual local organizations were then encouraged by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester to apply to participate, and Temple Beth David was among those selected. A special thank you to Neal Eckhaus for spearheading the effort to assemble and submit the final application.

As President, I'm mentioning this because any planning for Temple Beth David's long-term stability starts with an internal discussion about what TBD means to its members and to the Rochester Jewish community. What makes people excited to belong to this synagogue? What needs does TBD meet for its congregants, and are there other needs that it could do a better job of addressing? Why should TBD continue to exist in ten, twenty, or fifty years?

These are not simple questions, and they are not connected to single answers. They are conversation-starters. Think about them a bit. In the coming months, I expect to be asking many people about their feelings towards Temple Beth David, and more importantly towards the local Jewish community. I'm certain that everybody reading these words wants the Rochester Jewish community to stay strong in the future. And I'm optimistic that each of us wants to help make that happen if we see the right opportunity to make a difference. I hope that Temple Beth David can help each of us become more aware of such opportunities.

Best regards,

Andrew

All in the Family

January Birthdays

Aaron Freedman	January 3
Paul Eissenstat	January 8
Bruce Goldin	January 8
Hannah Eckhaus	January 12
Dorothy Sherr	January 16
David Langmann	January 18
Mindy Zoghlin	January 23
Linda Servetnik	January 25
Sarisa Zoghlin	January 27

February Birthdays

Marc Lande	February 2
Bonnie Abrams-Rich	February 3
Pam Rosen	February 7
Marlena Berger	February 10
Millicent Ritz	February 13
Susan Langmann	February 14
Rae Fleischer	February 16
Gabriel Franklin	February 17
Thomas Wolbert	February 18
Helen Kashtan	February 23
Arthur Bernberg	February 27

Happy 91st Birthday,
Irv Mindlin

Congratulations,
Harold and Dolly Fishman,
on your January 25
65th wedding anniversary



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Special thanks to those who
sponsored Soup for Shabbat

Lisa Klein, Sid Markus, Karen
Schaffer and Lilly Sherman

and

Cindy Halpern, in honor of her
mother, Mildred Gilman



Save the Date for Purim

The Small Shul Collaborative (including Temple Beth David) will celebrate Purim at

Congregation Beth Hamedresh

**in the early evening of Wednesday,
February 28**

This will be an event for the entire family with
entertainment, refreshments and
Megillah reading

Kabbalat Shabbat

FRIDAY NIGHT FRESH

January 19 6:30 pm

Join us for a shared dinner
followed by a discussion about our
Chagall needlepoints. Learn about the
original paintings and how the women of
Temple Beth David came together to
create these needlepoints 40 years ago.

Please RSVP by January 10 to the
temple office and let us know what dish
you will bring to share
(dairy or pareve only).

Open to the community



Books & Brunch

Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog

69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

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



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

Yahrzeits

Date Observed

January 1

Bella Nussbaum
Nissim Ojalvo
Solomon Phillips
Sharon Garey Slavin

January 2

Bessie Braiman
Jean Levy Gan

January 3

Sam Cohen
Paul Newman

January 4

Anna Alva
Sylvia Weber

January 5

Martin Roth

January 6

Max Gross
Abraham Lutzky
David M. Przewuzman
Doris Pulvino
Y'hoshua Schnidman
Sally Shilman
Nathan Zeif

January 8

Mowey Presberg
Eugene Roth

January 9

Milton Lande

January 11

Sheldon Feuerstein
Aaron Goldenberg
Donna Wexler Larca

January 12

Sheldon Himmelstein
Reuben Robbins

January 13

Esther Prives

January 14

Rae Goldman
Herbert Kraus
Max Schwartz

January 15

George Geiger
Arthur P. Lomg

January 16

Blanche Levine
Benjamin Rosenbaum

January 17

Esther Aroesty

January 19

Milton Grossman
William Zivan

January 21

Max Mendel Feldman
Norman Gilman

January 22

Louis Pulvino
Ada Rosenthal
Abe Rousso

January 23

Abe A. Hersch
Sidney Weinstein

January 24

Arthur Bauman
Ida Gertzog
Laurie Feuerstein Walsh

January 25

Julius Himmilstein
Max Ostroff
Regina Schier

January 26

Bertha Dobkin
Daniel Hirsch
Adelaide Kalin

January 28

Minnie Haymoff

January 29

Judy Craw
Morris Klein
George Moidel
Lee Schwartz
Don Vanas

January 30

Dorothy Schwartz

January 31

Ida "Toots" Skopitz



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

Date Observed

February 1

Charles Jaffey

Alexander Phillips

Rose Shear

Abraham Wasserman

February 16

Sarah Feldman

Frank Sherman

Fanny Simon Passer

February 23

Mary Freedman

February 3

Pauline Eve Chait

February 7

Dorothy Silberberg

February 24

Lillian Abelson

Pearl Ann Berkov

February 4

Charles Conwell

Garson Kleinberg

David Nussbaum

Alfred Stiller

February 9

Rose Grossman

Rose Kessler

Edith Kopen

Florence Levinson

February 17

Rose Ambush

David Lustik

Sara Brodsky

Norman Klein

Harry Roxin

Anna Schrier

February 18

William Friedman

Florence Levenberg

February 26

Sonya Newman

February 5

Max Gordon

Paul Lunken

Harry Sigelow

February 11

Herman Miller

February 19

Jack Miller

Jacob Salkowitz

February 27

Sarah Fleisher

Irvin Katz

February 6

Miriam Bauman

Samuel Chait

David Garey

Rose Kurlanshik

February 14

Minnie Himmelstein

Sidney Schatz

Julius Sherman

February 20

Minnie Blumkin

Shirley Shapiro

February 28

Munira Daniel

Gary Passer

February 21

Pearl Sosne



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Temple Beth David
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community information.**

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