

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

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In early June of this year, our country paused to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. We were reminded of words he spoke on the campaign trail not long before his death: "Some men see things as they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were and ask why not."

Numerous thoughts come to mind when reflecting on this, among them the stark contrast between the almost prophetic nature of this comment which seeks to open up a world of possibility, and the tone of our most recent presidential campaign. At a completely different level, one assumes that if Kennedy were to utter these words in a campaign today, he would substitute the word "people" for "men", in order to appeal and be relevant to the entire population!

But a point which I imagine is often overlooked about this statement is that it was not penned by Kennedy or even by his speech writers. Instead, it paraphrased George Bernard Shaw's "*Back to Methuselah*", in which the serpent says to Eve: "You see things; and you say: 'Why?' But I dream things

that never were; and I say 'Why not?'"

Spoken at the foot of the tree of knowledge with its as yet uneaten fruit in the Garden of Eden, this original context casts a completely different light on the sentiment. Suddenly, the notion of opening up a world of possibility comes across as inherently sinful and one might be easily convinced that aspirations lead us to trouble and that it's safer to just follow the path of least resistance.

On a recent Shabbat, we looked at the section of the Torah when Moses sends twelve spies to scout out the Land of Canaan. When ten of the twelve return and report that the People of Israel would not succeed in conquering the land, the People are easily convinced. God is so outraged that S/He immediately decides the People should wander in the desert for forty years so that the generation that left Egypt about one year before this incident, should not be allowed to enter the Land.

What could possibly have been so terrible about the spies' report? Why was it such a travesty to proclaim: "The land is wonderful but let's be honest folks – it just doesn't make sense for us to try this"? Should they not have been praised for giving an honest account? In their eyes, the People of Israel would face certain death if they entered the Land of Canaan!

Well, it turns out that the spies' fear of

death is not the essence of their sin. The crux of what is going on here is that it's not death they're facing, but opportunity. Opportunity to live, to live with a level of meaning and reward and satisfaction that is unimaginable to them. Their sin is that hope is abandoned, options are limited, possibility is denied, God is rejected.

It is almost always situations which are beyond our comfort zones that make us grow, and that is what God hopes for us: that we will grow. God wants us to embrace opportunity, to move forward in our lives, to believe in ourselves, and to believe that God is with us. The challenge is to allow ourselves the space to grow. Becoming more than we've been should not have to mean losing who we've been until that point; it means adding to it, enriching it, even strengthening it as we take it with us wherever we go. It means opening ourselves to opportunity, to who we might be, to things that never were.

And unlike Hamlet, who fears that dreams are dark and threatening, we need to dream with our eyes wide open, of life, of possibility, acknowledging fear, even embracing it so that we might conquer it, but dream with eyes wide open so that we might have a view of the road that lies ahead.

That is what we learn God wants for us.

Bivrachah / / *בברכה* with blessings,

Rabbi Michael Silbert



News from the President

I am entering my final six months as President of the Board of Trustees. During my time in office, I've been involved in some major activities: selling and moving out of one synagogue, renovating and moving into another, and hiring a new rabbi, for instance. *Kinahora*, the next president will not have to face any of those tasks. So what does the "ordinary" part of the President job entail? And what is the time commitment? I'd like to take the opportunity to list a few insights about what the job has— and hasn't — required of me.

- First, the obvious: I schedule and run the monthly meetings of both the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, and I make a speech during the High Holidays.
- If I'm present for services on Shabbat morning, I read the announcements near the end of the service. There is no obligation for me to be there, however; there's always someone else who can do it.
- Since we're a small organization, the board President often assumes the role of Executive Director. For instance, I deal with TBK's Executive Director and administrators regarding our rental agreement. I also coordinate with Temple Sinai's ED each year to set up our usage of their sanctuary for the High Holidays.
- I meet one-on-one with the Rabbi every few weeks to share information and make plans.
- I am in regular contact with the Office Manager. Rebecca contacts me whenever something non-routine comes to her attention. In a given month, there's usually at least one week where something major comes up and we spend a few hours between emails, phone calls, and visits. The baseline is about ten email threads per week.
- With Rebecca, I review the list of members and affiliates every year, particularly during the run-up to the high holidays when tickets are mailed out. I also have to make the final call on dues abatement requests.
- I coordinate TBD's responses to various requests that come in: from the JCC, from the Farash Foundation, from the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester, etc. Sometimes that means writing a blurb, sometimes it's finding people to staff a booth, sometimes it's publicizing something of interest to the Jewish community. Sometimes there's money involved, either sponsoring a local event or applying for grants. And sometimes there is a sustained time commitment, such as participating in the Life and Legacy training program at the Federation or maintaining attendance at the Rochester Synagogue Council.

The RSC item reminds me to point out that Neal Eckhaus agreed from Day Zero to share this job. In some ways that's involved concrete splitting of duties – for example, he's been the temple's representative on the RSC – but more importantly he's been willing to accept TBD's needs as our joint responsibility. Whoever takes this job next, I recommend that you pair up with somebody as well. The job isn't huge, but at moments of crisis, you'll want somebody to talk with.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Regards,

Andrew

All in the Family

July Birthdays

Barbara Gertzog	July 1
Sharon Parkman	July 5
Barbara Goldman	July 14
Ira Goldman	July 14
Charles Rothberg	July 30

July Anniversaries

Ethan & Ruth Aranov	July 2
Bruce & Anne Goldin	July 6
Martin & Lauren Yesowitch	July 7
Andrew & Karen Berger	July 19
Harry & Adele Gan	July 29

Graduations

Jonathan Aranov
Elena Davis
Gabe Franklin
Aaron Freedman
Yolanda (Hadassah) Gavin
Juliet Lande
Olivia Meynadasy
Mira Phillips



**Special Birthday Wishes
to Dorothy Smith
and
Annette Applebaum**

August Birthdays

Mike Berke	August 2
Howard Kashtan	August 2
Marcia Davis	August 4
Andrew Berger	August 8
Scott Bauman	August 9
Kevin McTighe	August 14
Ron Brandwein	August 18
Leon Zoghlin	August 18
Tammy Hersch	August 19
Linda Phillips	August 19
Bernie Roth	August 19
Bill Gertzog	August 21
Neal Eckhaus	August 22
Sarah Eckhaus	August 22
Dolly Fishman	August 22
Sherry Goldman	August 23
Dan Nussbaum	August 23
Jonathan Feldman	August 24
Sid Markus	August 24
Benson Zoghlin	August 26
Alison Helms	August 28
Shelly Braiman	August 30

August Anniversaries

Bill & Ellen Gertzog	August 14
Neil & Kellie Hyman	August 15
Scott & Merrie Franklin	August 20
Phil & Joanne Katzman	August 20
Leon & Sarisa Zoghlin	August 24

**Shelly Braiman and daughters,
Marci Miller and
Susan Clouthier-Braiman,
thank the members of
Temple Beth David
for their kindness in remembering
Julian and their help with the
funeral and family kiddush.**

**Special thanks to
Shelly Braiman,
Scott and Lori Davis,
Karen Schaffer, Lilly Sherman,
and Richard and Joyce Towber
for sponsoring Kiddush.**

**Thank you to Bernie Roth for
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Marlena Berger

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Sue Lederer

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Upcoming@Shul

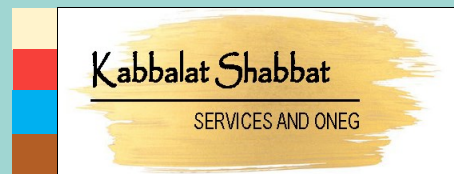
We hope you join us for upcoming Friday Night Fresh dinners and Kabbalat Shabbat Services. Mark your calendars!



Join us for a community dinner and discussion.

RSVPs are required, so watch for details!

- ♦ August 17
- ♦ November 16



Celebrate the end of a busy week with a relaxing, soulful service to welcome Shabbat. Singing and happiness guaranteed!

July 27

August 24

September 28

October 26

November 30

December 14



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Yahrzeits

Date Observed

July 1
Pearl Schwartz

July 2
Julius Lasken
Daniel Markus

July 3
Tillie Gross

July 4
Max Alper
Harold Hoffman

July 5
Erwin Levy
Jacob Wexler

July 6
David Gordon
Michael Greenberg
Nata Lee Cohen He

July 7
Al Newman

July 9
Isadore Braiman
Ethel Black

July 10
Hyman Abrams
Nathaniel Alent

July 11
Faye Gilberg
Jerome Rothstein

July 12
Morton Brodsky
Anna Kreag

July 13
Paul Cherkasky
Phillip Haymoff
Jarvis Kalin
Karen Phillips
Irving Kessler

July 14
Ida Priceman
Kalman Zohar

July 15
Ann Selby

July 16
Michael Zeif

July 17
Hena Gewertz Bromberg

July 22
Ida Conwell

July 23
Sam Kinel

July 24
Norman Steinberg

July 25
Nuftule Feinberg
Joe Priceman

July 26
David Black
Virginia Moss

July 27
Sadie Greenberg
Max Kessler

July 28
Larry Wolfson

July 29
Isadore Babin

July 30
Isaak Zack

July 31
Arthur Caplin
Belle Kessler
Morton Strassman
John Herbert Skiba
Gilbert Rosenbaum

August 1
Mary Rubin

August 2
Fronie Hoffman
Dorothy Marcusfield

August 3
Samuel Messinger
Elizabeth Palagyi
Irene Friedman

August 5
Ira Lurie

August 6
Jacob Etingoff

August 7
Rose Zoghlin

August 8
Mark A. Coleman

August 9
Martha Barufkin Driss
Moshe Mantelmacher

August 11
Rose L. Gordon

August 12
Mildred Ganon
Eric Scott Levy
Ida Lillian Tandler

August 13
Beatrice Goldman
Evelyn Sharf

August 14
Morris Goldberg
William Fleischer

August 15
Sam Pickus
Benjamin Spitulnik
Ann Simon

August 16
Hassie Kopen
Harold Peskowitz
Sarah Trevas

August 17
Rose Applebaum
Diane Mindlin
Ida Pierkarski
Gertrude Toole

August 19
David Erlichman
Amalie Kraus

August 20
Ann Levin
Morse Schwartz

August 22
Sumner Shechet

August 23
Raymond Babin
Murray Grashow

August 24
Bernard Etingoff

August 25
Sol Lederman

August 26
Selma Guttman
Yetta Ambush

August 28
Harry Levy
Eli Schwartz
Mollie Reznick

August 29
Sylvia Berkov
Rachel Freedman

August 30
Isadore Gertzog
Beverly Sigelow

August 31
Milton Drexler

**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.**

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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 to the mailing list!

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.

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