

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

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I grew up in the Southern Hemisphere where Chanukah occurs in the summer. Its impact as the “festival of light” is therefore severely diminished, as candle lighting competes with the lure of the beach and other summer activities that typically draw people out of the home. In fact, I can’t say for sure that the locals even use the term “festival of light”, as there already is plenty of light to go around thanks to the African sun which shines brightly and until a late hour at that time of year.

It was only after I came to the United States that I began to understand the extent to which the Jewish calendar is rooted in the Northern Hemisphere. It was especially when I noticed fall vegetables and gourds decorating American *sukkahs* that I started to truly comprehend Sukkot as the Jewish celebration of the fall harvest. Similarly, it was also then that Pesach’s alternative

name of *Chag Ha’Aviv*, The Spring Festival, actually made sense to me after always having celebrated Pesach in the fall before I arrived on these shores.

Thinking about geography really highlighted the role of the seasons in the Jewish calendar for me, which is why it then seemed somewhat peculiar to me that the Jewish New Year occurs in the fall. There are numerous possible reasons why it does, but it was the apparent *symbolic* contradiction that surprised me: fall and the demise of the leaves is so often associated with the end of growth and even a sense of loss and pessimism as we begin our initial descent into winter’s bleakness and – for some – misery. A loss of possibility. I think of Frank Sinatra’s melancholy tone as he sings, “But now the days grow short / I’m in the autumn of the year / And I think of my life as vintage wine...”

How do we reconcile this alignment of the festival of birth and creation with the season of loss and endings?

It seems to me that the answer lies in the words of Deuteronomy, which we read

just a few weeks ago: “I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. You must actively choose life if you really want to know what it means to be alive.” Furthermore, Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg writes in his book, *The Jewish Way*, that “Judaism is a religion of life against death. (Its) general response to the fact of death is to fight back. Life is given the highest priority.”

As we find ourselves approaching weather that is less inviting, we face a choice between the inertia of staying inside where it’s cozy and comfy but also isolating, and the challenge of venturing beyond the front door in order to seek community and to make Jewish life happen. Our Temple Beth David community is one of the warmest and most comforting environments I could imagine to spend a cold winter’s Shabbat morning; it warms the heart, it seeks to make everyone who enters its doors feel welcome and wanted, and it reminds us amidst the stillness of the frigid air what a strong and thriving Jewish life is all about. It’s about the people who make it happen, despite the challenges.

(Continued on page 2)



News from the President

This is the last column I'm writing for a 2018 Bulletin, and by January 2019 I will no longer be the president of the board of trustees. My time as president happened to coincide with a period of extreme change for our shul, as most of you know. Almost none of the surface features of Temple Beth David are the same as they were three years ago: different location, different rabbi, different office manager, and a much different experience being a part of a growing Jewish "campus" on Elmwood Avenue. Oh, and no more bingo nights.

Serving as your president has changed me deeply. I know a lot of you much better, which has been the most enjoyable development. I know a lot more about what it takes to keep Temple Beth David running. I have acquired many good stories to tell. But most profoundly, I've seen how nothing about Temple Beth David can be taken for granted. Really: nothing. Everything we offer depends upon the efforts of volunteers, and many things don't happen due to lack of volunteers. I thank everybody who has given their time, energy, and creativity over the past three years. You have created so many wonderful events within the TBD community, and you have pulled us through difficult challenges. May our network stay strong.

As of this writing, we are not able to confirm a date for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Our bylaws state that it must be held in October, but we do not yet have a potential president to head the slate that will be elected at the meeting. This is not for lack of effort by our search committee, and not for lack of many people giving the job serious consideration. For now, I have decided it is more important to have a president at the head of the slate than to hold the meeting in October. Please stay tuned, and we will notify all congregants about the meeting, by mail, as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Andrew

I'm not suggesting that this is WHY our New Year occurs in the fall, but I do think it's WHAT we can do about it. We can use this time as an opportunity which is devoid of many other distractions that often compete for our time and attention, to accelerate our Jewish growth. And we can accomplish this by finding renewal through engaging with Jewish life and in particular, with our community, on a weekly basis in the months ahead. Joy can be more powerful than sorrow, which is why I invite you to keep in mind the image of Temple Beth David as a toasty fire burning when the mercury begins to drop. That way, you might just find this coming fall and winter to be the warmest ones yet, no matter what the weather brings.

Come along, and as always, bring a friend.

Bivrachah / / בברכה with blessings,

All in the Family

November Birthdays

Maureen Rosenbaum	November 21
Cindy Halpern	November 22
Scott Franklin	November 26
Tali Phillips	November 27
Harry Gan	November 28
Ed Drexler	November 29

November Anniversaries

Stan and Michelle Gross	November 3
Dan and Risa Saltzman	November 3
Ira and Sherry Goldman	November 4
Ron and Carol Schott	November 6
Howard and Helen Kashtan	November 29

December Birthdays

Irv Mindlin	December 1
Loris Davis	December 2
Adele Gan	December 4
Gary Cohen	December 9
Phil Katzman	December 11
Sharon Alva	December 12
Shirley Grossman	December 22
Sue Drexler	December 27
Neil Hyman	December 27
Alex Cohen	December 29
Scott Davis	December 29
Rabbi Aviva Berg	December 30
Merrie Franklin	December 31
Dan Shapiro	December 31

Thank you to Shelly Braiman, Paul and Judy Eissenstat, and Barbara Gertzog for sponsoring Kiddush.

Thank you to Cindy Halpern and Bernie Roth for sponsoring the Shabbat Surprise.

Books & Brunch

Join us for a discussion of Jewish-themed books over brunch.

Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog
69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

Sundays @ 10 a.m. – noon

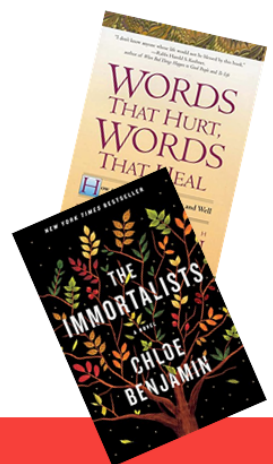
December 2: ***A Backpack, a Bear and Eight Crates of Vodka***
by Lev Golinkin

January 20: ***American Pastoral***, by Philip Roth

March 24: ***Words That Hurt, Words That Heal***
by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

May 5: ***The Immortalists***, by Chloe Benjamin

Open to the community! RSVP by the Wednesday before
to: Ellen Gertzog 461- 4336 egertzog@gmail.com



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Received August 16, 2018 - October 15, 2018

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Ellen Gertzog

Howard Brill

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Howard and Helen Kashtan

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*Thank you to Ron and Jean Brandwein
for their generous gift of the bimah clergy chairs.*

*This gift brings us closer to the
completion of our bimah design.*

Upcoming@Shul

We hope you join us for upcoming Friday night events. Mark these on your calendars!



Join us for a community dinner and discussion.

RSVPs are required, so watch for details!

November 16



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

October 26

November 30

December 14



Join us for the Temple Beth David

Annual Chanukah Party

*** Saturday, December 8 ***

stay tuned for more details

**Thank you to those who helped at the August Shabbat dinner.
If you'd like to volunteer to help with the Shabbat dinner on
November 16, please contact the temple office.**

Set up the dining room

Serve food at the dinner

Clean up after dinner



Yahrzeits

Date Observed

November 1
Esther Conwell Rothberg
Anne Owerbach
Ruth Shechet

November 2
James Alva

November 4
Dory M. Driss
Donald Gallant
Joseph Klein
Belle Kleinberg

November 5
Robert Newman
Philip Stark

November 6
Peter Manjos

November 7
Joseph Levy

November 8
Leon Alent
Helen Forchheimer

November 9
Michael Simon

November 10
David Candles

November 11
Isadore Neurock

November 12
Evelyn Lovinger

November 13
Millard Schaffer
Ray Schatz

November 14
Minnie Gan Kotzin
Benjamin Markowitz
Barnet Rothstein

November 15
Abraham Fishman

November 16
Myron Grashow
Pauline Markowitz

November 17
Howard Goldenberg
Ruth Goldstein

November 18
Jessie Cohen
Belle Fogelman

November 19
Bany Cohen

November 20
Abe Aroesty
Mildred Levy

November 21
Max Robbins
Julius Rosen
Eli Rothstein
Shirley T. Schnidman

November 23
Esther Lederman

November 24
Louis H. Grossman
Ruth Lederer

November 25
Herbert Goldberg
Jacob Kreag

November 26
Max Roth
Harry Stein

November 27
Marie Goldwasser
Max Rosenthal

November 29
Sara Gorelick

November 30
Ira Kinel

December 1
Leonard Gordon

December 2
Max Ambush

December 3
Abraham Berkov
Max Berson
Rosalie Bloom
Laurence Skopitz

December 4
Nathan Goldwasser

December 5
Tibey Porrath

December 6
Muriel Katz
Dora Lutzky

December 7
Lillian Bridge
Louis Levin
Julia Stiller
Sylvia Towber

December 8
Sheldon Harris

December 9
Samuel Herman
Paul Vanas

December 10
Bernard Bernberg
Ben Drexler
Fajwel Kindel
Harry Vine

December 11
Irene Herman
Barnet Selby

December 13
Lillian Mountain

December 14
Fanny Rosen
Michal (bat Moshe) Tal

December 15
Mac Gan
Jack Hoffman
Elsie Perlman

December 17
Marvin Frank

December 18
Annette Formicola
Herbert Rubin
Rabbi Abraham Rubin
Serafine Rubin

December 19
Harold Feinberg
Eugene Rosenbaum

December 20
Ann Cohn
Sandra Garey Kaye

December 21
Adele Katzman
Morris Schnidman

December 22
Bella Nussbaum
Nissim Ojalvo
Solomon Phillips

December 23
Bessie Braiman
Jean Levy Gan
Ben Passer

December 24
Sam Cohen
Paul Newman
Dora Snyder

December 25
Anna Alva
Sylvia Weber

December 26
Edward Driss
Martin Roth

December 27
Max Gross
Estelle Hirsch
Abraham Lutzky
David Matis Przewuzman
Doris Pulvino
Y'hoshua Schnidman
Sally Shilman
Nathan Zeif

December 29
Edith Manoff
Eugene Roth

December 30
Miriam Kaufman
Milton Lande

December 31
Helen Steinberg

Please forgive an error in the September October Bulletin which should have stated that September 10 is the Yahrzeit for Rachel Miller, not her daughter, our beloved Florence Phillips.

SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

Checks payable to: Temple Beth David, 2131 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 204 , Rochester, NY 14618

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Note: _____

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

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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 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.

Please contact the office with family news.



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