



The Bulletin

VOL. 66 Issue 1

January - February 2019

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

rabbi@tbdrochester.org



It occurred to me that when a new rabbi joins a congregation, the transition is felt at several different levels: at the broadest level, there is an adjustment for the rabbi to the congregation and to the organization's culture, and reciprocally, there is an adjustment for the congregation at large. At a more individual level, each member of the congregation who encounters the new rabbi – whether once a week or even just once a year – has to come to terms both with the loss of the outgoing rabbi while also trying to get used to the personal style, religious approach and other idiosyncrasies of the new one.

It's one thing when the outgoing rabbi has been a long-term presence in the community, but how much more complicated does it get when the congregation has experienced an unusual amount of upheaval in recent years? How much more unsettling is the transition when a series of three or four rabbis in succession have occupied the pulpit on short- to medium-term basis creating myriad different expectations, interspersed by periods *without* a rabbi when the congregants had to learn to fend for themselves out of necessity, as has been the case at Temple Beth David?

Recently, my first anniversary as Beth David's rabbi has given me the opportunity to reflect on how easy and comfortable this transition has been for me, despite the challenges. It is my most sincere hope that the experience has been similar for you, and I offer all of you my thanks for the joy and honor you have given me by welcoming me so warmly and treating me like an old friend. I couldn't have wished for better.

My reflections have also been driven by another event in the life of our congregation: the volunteer leadership transition as Temple Beth David president, Andrew Berger, reaches the end of his second term at the end of 2018. Indeed, Andrew's last year in office coincided with my first year as your rabbi, and I realize how fortunate I have been to benefit from his leadership. Considering how bumpy a congregation's transition to a new rabbi has the potential to be, it is clear to me that we have all been blessed by Andrew's guidance; by his calm, unflappable, considerate and steady approach and manner, which have helped all of us navigate new waters.

I truly appreciate Andrew's thoughtfulness and sincerity. His ability to see both sides of an argument reminds me of great Talmud scholars, and come to think of it, if Andrew should ever decide he's had enough of his profession in the field of photonics, I have some ideas of where else he might want to focus his laser-like (I'm sorry!) attention.

I am confident that I speak for all of Temple Beth David when I wish Andrew “ישר כח” / “Yashar Ko'ach” – the blessing of “May your strength return directly to you” which we bestow upon someone after they have fulfilled a sacred responsibility, such as reading from or being called up to the Torah. Andrew, we thank you for your magnificent service to our community and we hope that your “retirement” from the office of president will leave you more inspired than ever to continue to engage with Temple Beth David and to be an active part of its future.

At the same time, we excitedly welcome our incoming co-presidents Barbara Grosh, Maxine Manjos and Lewis Rothberg. We look forward to working with them to further strengthen Beth David, as together we strive to answer a great mystery which surely would have flummoxed our sages of old: What on earth does one call a group of three Jews working together as synagogue co-presidents?

A troika? A triumvirate? A trimitzvah? Just plain old *meshugah*?

To paraphrase my old friends “Click” and “Clack” from NPR's “Car Talk”, submit your answer to this question on the back of a \$100 bill or by e-mailing: rabbi@tbdrochester.org. First prize is a used *lulav* and *etrog*, and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Kol Tuv – May all be well with you,
Rabbi Michael Silbert

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.



When Andrew Berger enlisted Lewis Rothberg, Barbara Grosh and me to form a leadership group for our temple for the coming two years, he talked about his and Neal Eckhaus's presidency centering on crucial issues: selling our Irondequoit temple; finding, renovating and moving to our new site; finding a new rabbi and temple office manager. Thanks to Andrew's and Neal's work and a solid financial base, we now find ourselves in a secure place.

A moment for introspection and self-assessment is available to us. We have some time to ask ourselves the big questions: How do we now define ourselves at this stage of our temple life? Under the leadership of our rabbi, how do we enrich our spiritual life and our relationships with each other? What role do we play in the larger community? Which members will lead us to answering these questions and to helping us to find our direction?

There is a palpable energy in our congregation. Our recent Friday night Shabbat meals and Chanukah party were joyous events. Shabbat evening services, Torah study, singing, Torah reading and Haftarah chanting and the rabbi's Dvar Torahs generate pride in our traditions and lift us spiritually. Members find connection in attending Ellen Gertzog's monthly book discussions.

Some congregants have contributed ideas for breathing new life into Jewish traditions. Others have suggested home social gatherings and even ideas for fundraising. We have already begun conversations inspired by the book, Relational Judaism; can we build on the insights found in this book?

Several members are concerned with our relationship with the larger community and have attended the Interfaith Thanksgiving service and the vigil held in memory of the victims of the Pittsburgh shooting. Others are concerned with engaging young Jewish members and connecting them to each other.

We have so many strengths. How will we build on them and strengthen our sense of community in the coming months? I look forward to being in dialogue with you as we seek to answer this question.

Best wishes to my temple family,

Maxine

Thanks to Shelby Nelson, Lewis Rothberg and Bonnie Abrams for the terrific Chanukah party and to Burt Segelin for photography.

Thanks to so many of you who have expressed good wishes to Barbara, Lewis and me as we begin our joint presidency. Your kindness means a lot.

Thanks to Andrew Berger, Sue Eckhaus, Neal Eckhaus, Scott Franklin, Helen Kashtan and Rebecca Weber for help, advice and unquestioned support.

All in the Family

January Birthdays

Ethan Aranov
Aaron Freedman
Paul Eissenstat
Bruce Goldin
Hannah Eckhaus
David Langmann
Mindy Zoghlin
Linda Servetnick

January 3
January 3
January 8
January 8
January 12
January 18
January 23
January 25

February Birthdays

Marc Lande
Bonnie Abrams-Rich
Pam Rosen
Marlena Berger
Susan Langmann
Gabe Franklin
Thomas Wolbert
Helen Kashtan

February 2
February 3
February 7
February 10
February 14
February 17
February 18
February 23

January Anniversary

Harold and Dolly Fishman

January 25

Thank you to Andrew and Karen Berger, Karen Schaffer, Gary Cohen and Pam Rosen, Jonathan Feldman and Alison Helms, Lisa Klein and Irv Mindlin for sponsoring Kiddush.

Thank you to Cindy Halpern for providing flowers and cholent and to Bernie Roth for sponsoring soup.



Brandon took time to speak with Leo about his "Journey for Identity".



Happy Chanukah



Bonnie sang "I Have a Little Dreidel" with original rhymes!



It was the best chocolate gelt I have ever had!



Smiles abound from table to table!



The trivia game was a big hit!
A lovely evening for all!



Donations

Received October 16, 2018 - December 15, 2018

DAVID SOLOMON FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Jordan Cohen

Cindy Halpern

Rae Fleisher

Bonnie Lustik Hafling

Myron and Rheva Kleinberg

David Goldwasser

Fay Neuberger

Phillip Kassirer

Steven Kassirer

Myron and Rheva Kleinberg

Ruth Lederer

Mildred Levy

Theodore and Shirley Levy

Dora Lutzky

Abraham Lutzky

Phillip and Susan Lederer

Peter Manjos

Maxine Manjos

Ruth Shechet

Kevin and Judy Fleissig

Michael Simon

Sandra Cohen

Harry H. Stein

Marsha Greenberg

IN APPRECIATION OF

Temple Beth David

Marjory David

Michael & Beverly Stoler Zwick

GET WELL WISHES

Daubey and Carol Dankner

Lilly Sherman

Harriet Driss

Bruce Goldin

Gary Cohen and Pam Rosen

RABBI SKOPITZ FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Jessie Cohen

Eli Rothstein

Bill and Lisa Keeley

Shirley Schnidman

Frank Schnidman

Rabbi Laurence Skopitz

Linda Roth, Shalom & Hyla

MITZVAH KIDDUSH FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Larry Brandwein

Joyce and Richard Towber

Jordan Cohen

Karen Schaffer

Donald Gallant

Annette Applebaum

David Goldwasser

Fay Neuberger

Adele Katzman

Philip and Joanne Katzman

Frances Stark

Philip Stark

Karen Schaffer

Julia Stiller

Sylvia Stiller

GET WELL WISHES

Hadassah Gavin

Gary Cohen and Pam Rosen

Karen Schaffer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gary Cohen

Karen Schaffer

Irving Mindlin

Pam Rosen, Gary and Alex Cohen

IN APPRECIATION OF

Ellen Gertzog

Karen Schaffer

IN HONOR OF

Maddy Feldman

Karen Schaffer

MARSHA FISHMAN

EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Richard Cohen

Abe Fishman

Jack Kurz

Harold and Dolly Fishman

Nissim Ojalvo

Milt and Dorothy Smith

Marsha Fishman

Sol and Miriam Ahitow

Joseph Klein

Helen S. Klein & family

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Joseph Levy

Theodore and Shirley Levy

Esther Conwell Rothberg

Lewis Rothberg and Shelby Nelson

Morris Schnidman

Y'hoshua Schnidman

Frank Schnidman

IN APPRECIATION

Rochelle Kashtan

SOLDIERS FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Jordan Cohen

Jesse Cohen

Edith Manoff

Isadore Neurock

Dora Snyder

Frances Neurock

Millard Schaffer

Karen Schaffer

IN SUPPORT

Michael and Toby Berke

Bernard Roth

Donate



Donate online at

www.tbdrochester.org

Thank you

to all those who helped at the
November Shabbat dinner.

If you'd like to help with the
Shabbat dinner on January 18,
please contact the temple office.



Set up the dining room

Serve food at the dinner

Clean up after dinner

Upcoming@Shul

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

Shabbat Dinner FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

*Join us for a community dinner and singing.
RSVPs are required, so watch for details!
Space is limited, sign up early.*

January 18

Kabbalat Shabbat FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

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

January 25

February 15



TEMPLE
BETH
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Books & Brunch

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

Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog
69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

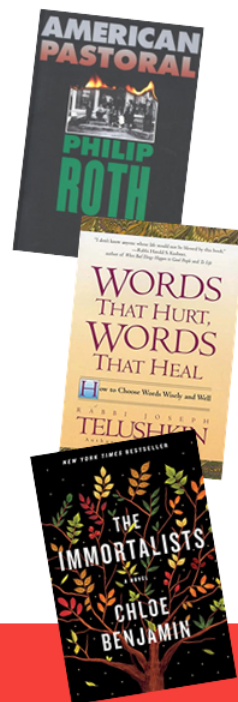
Sundays @ 10 a.m. – noon

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



TEMPLE
BETH
DAVID

Yahrzeits

Date Observed

January 1

Sheldon Feuerstein
Minnie Flaxman
Aaron Goldenberg
Bernard Kaufman
Donna Wexler Larca

January 2

Sheldon Himmelstein
Reuben Robbins

January 4

Rae Goldman
Herbert Kraus
Max Schwartz

January 5

George Geiger
Arthur P. Long

January 6

Blanche Levine
Benjamin Rosenbaum

January 7

Esther Aroesty

January 9

Milton Grossman
Yuda Kinel
L. Grant Meeker

January 11

Norman Gllman

January 12

Louis Pulvino
Ada Rosenthal
Abe Rousso

January 13

Abe A. Hersch
Sidney Weinstein

January 14

Arthur Bauman
Ida Gertzog
Laurie Feuerstein Walsh

January 15

Julius Himmelstein
Regina Schier

January 16

Bertha Bobkin
Daniel Hirsch
Adelaide Kalin

January 18

Minnie Haymoff

January 19

Judy Craw
Morris Klein
George Moidel
Lee Schwartz
Don Vanas

January 20

Dorothy Schwartz

January 21

Ida "Toots" Skopitz

January 22

Charles Jafeey

January 23

Lillian Schneider

January 24

Pauline Eve Chait

January 25

Charles Conwell
Garson Kleinberg
David Nussbaum
Alfred Stiller

January 26

Max Gordon
Paul Lunken
Harry Sigelow

January 27

Miriam Bauman
Samuel Chait
David Garey
Rose Kurlanshik
Alexander Phillips
Rose Shear
Abraham Wasserman

January 28

Dorothy Silberger

January 30

Rose Grossman
Rose Kessler
Edith Kopen
Florence Levinson

February 1

Herman Miller

February 4

Minnie Himmelstein
Sidney Schatz

February 6

Julian Braiman
Frank Sherman
Fanny Simon Passer

February 7

Rose Ambush
David Listik

February 9

Jack Miller

February 10

Minnie Blumkin
Shirley Shapiro

February 14

Norman Klein
Harry Roxin
Anna Schrier

February 16

Sonya Newman

February 17

Sarah Fleisher
Irvin Katz

February 18

Gary Passer
Rose Robbins

February 19

Faye Goldin

February 22

Florence Ettingoff
Max Palagyi

February 23

Gertrude Brotsky
Jacob Haymoff
Samuel Markus

February 24

Julius Berger
Dorothy Bernberg
Annette Harris
Albert Marcusfield

February 25

Saralie Foote
Alexander Kopen

February 26

Leila Markus
Martin Miller

February 27

William David
Anna Weinstein

February 28

Louis Klein

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.

SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

Checks payable to: Temple Beth David, 2131 Elmwood Avenue, 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.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Solomon Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Skopitz Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Soldier's Project Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitzvah/Kiddush Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Repair Fund |



Donations and dues payments may now be accepted online! Visit our DONATE page at www.tbdrochester.org Online donation minimum \$10.



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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Cemetery: Mike Berke, Bill Gertzog

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585-266-3223

office@tbdrochester.org

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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

- **Soldiers Project**

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