



# RABBI'S RAMBLINGS...

January 16, 2019

י' שבת תשע"ט

Shalom,

If you've been following local news reports this week, you might have heard about a snow storm that is expected to hit the Rochester area this weekend, which will be "measured in feet, not inches"! So, what does this mean for Shabbat morning services? Inspired by some members of our congregation who work(ed) for the United States Postal Service, I believe that the role of a rabbi is to show up, no matter what the weather. Therefore, if you're up to joining me at services this coming Saturday, I'll be there! (Feel free to grab a cup of hot coffee in the social hall, upon your arrival.)

That said, as much as we always love to see you, I certainly would discourage anyone from taking heroic measures to get to shul in extreme weather conditions. If the storm is as heavy as anticipated, please do not do anything to endanger your health and safety. To echo the weekly words of caution from Sgt. Esterhaus in the 80s show *Hill Street Blues*: "Be careful out there..." (A cultural phenomenon, even in South Africa 🤔...)

## Mitzvah Opportunity

It is especially at times of extreme weather that we need to remember that there are people in our broader Rochester community who struggle to provide the most basic of resources for their own survival. For some it's about paying a heating bill, for others it's about maintaining a roof over their heads, while there also are those who do not even know where and when they will eat their next meal.

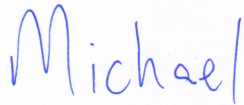
This coming **Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, from 11:30am – 1:00pm, I will be volunteering to serve meals at the Asbury First United Methodist Church's Dining and Caring Center, on East Ave. I would love it if you would join me, so please e-mail me at

[rabbi@tbdrochester.org](mailto:rabbi@tbdrochester.org) and I'll let you know where to meet me so we can go in together.

### **This coming week in Jewish life**

*Tu B'Shvat* / ט"ו בשבט / the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month of Shvat, is a minor festival which takes place this coming Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Known as "the New Year of the Trees", it is Judaism's own Environment Day, or Arbor Day, in which we celebrate plant life and nature. Historically, it served as an anniversary by which to calculate the age of trees so that our people could comply with the biblical prohibition against eating the fruit of a tree in its first three years. The practice of eating fruit on this day (especially dates, figs, pomegranates and grapes) has evolved over the years. Because this festival itself is not mentioned in the bible, one is permitted to work on this day.

Kol Tuv / כל טוב / May all be well for you,



Rabbi Michael Silbert