



# RABBI'S RAMBLINGS...

January 30, 2019  
כ"ד שבט תשע"ט

Shalom,

How do you relate to hearing musical instruments played in a synagogue? Does it make the service feel more spiritual and meaningful for you? Does it make you feel like you're in a church and have you running for the door? What do you think Temple Beth David would be like with music? We'd like to know!

Music has been somewhat controversial in the world of Conservative Judaism and needless to say, there is a broad range of opinions on this topic. Some members of our community have recently suggested to me that our own services at Temple Beth David could be enhanced by music, which is why I hope you'll be interested to participate in a community discussion on this topic, so that we can hear *your* views too.

Among the issues we will examine, are:

- What does *Halachah* (Jewish Law) have to say about playing music during services?
- How have other Conservative Temples approached this decision?
- What are the options?
- How do we react to this idea deep down in our *kishkes* (in our guts!)?

Please let me know if you'd like to be included in this conversation by clicking on this link: [rabbi@tbdrochester.org](mailto:rabbi@tbdrochester.org)

To step back for a moment and to look at how I approach the question of change in general, it is important to me as the rabbi and *marah d'atrah* / מרא דאתרא / the appointed authority to decide on issues of *halachah* in our community, that we not rush into making any potentially controversial changes to the established practices of our

community. Rather, I always prefer to start from a place of respect for and understanding of our existing practice and tradition, while remaining open to the dynamic nature of Jewish life and practice. I try to take all sides of an argument into consideration and I feel it is important that we educate ourselves about what is at stake.

This is why I am almost more interested in the process that we as a community can explore together, than the outcome itself. Of course the outcome is important too, but I believe that a valid and legitimate outcome is predicated and dependent on a valid and legitimate process in which we hear from as many of our members as possible. Which is why we need to hear from YOU.

Once again, please let me know if you'd like to be included in this conversation by clicking on this link: [rabbi@tbdrochester.org](mailto:rabbi@tbdrochester.org)

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

Michael

Rabbi Michael Silbert

## SHABBAT THIS WEEK

Friday, February 1 – Saturday, February 2, 2019



Candle lighting: 5:05pm  
Shabbat ends: 6:08pm

Torah reading: *Parashat Mishpatim*  
Triennial Year 3: Ex. 23:20 – 24:18