

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

rabbi@tbdrochester.org



Allow me to begin by promoting Temple Beth David's weekly Shabbat morning Torah Study series, from 9:00am -10:00 a.m., which is taught by Howard Brill. Howard offers wonderful insights into the weekly Torah portion and his classes also invite lively discussion from everyone present.

In recent weeks, as we have been reading and learning about the Book of Leviticus (*Vayikra*), we have explored rituals pertaining to Temple worship, the sacrificial system and requirements for ritual purity in general. Throughout our discussions about these practices, participants in Howard's class find themselves asking: "What is the point of this? Why should we even bother with rituals which seem to have no moral or spiritual benefit?"

One of the core aspects of Judaism which is so meaningful to me, is that the moral and the ethical do indeed go hand in hand – there is no separation between them. The challenge, though, is to learn to look deeper and to acquire adult perspectives into our practices, which were not necessarily taught to us when we were kids in Hebrew School.

Just think about some of the customs associated with so many Jewish holidays:

On Rosh HaShanah we eat apples and honey

On Yom Kippur we abstain from eating and wearing leather shoes

On Chanukah, even as adults, we remain wedded to the *midrash* (rabbinical mythology) that one day's worth of oil miraculously lasted eight days, etc.

And now, as we approach Pesach, we prepare our homes by getting rid of *chametz* (leaven) and we eat Matzah instead of bread

How many times have we paused – either before dismissing these practices as childish or before following them for the same reasons that were taught to us as children – and asked the question: "But what am I supposed to get out of this as an adult?"

Our sages never intended the theology and logic that is taught to children to be meaningful to us as adults. Unfortunately though, Jewish education for many of us ended around age thirteen, which means we missed out on the opportunity to learn to appreciate our Judaism as adults.

Perhaps as a child you might have learned about *Bedikat Chametz*, the practice of fastidiously cleaning the last crumbs of *chametz* out of our kitchen cabinets. For children, this is meant to be an engaging way of getting excited about the approaching holy day. For adults though, it might very well seem like religious fanaticism! What difference does it matter if a few crumbs are left behind?

Therefore, it becomes the role of a Jewish educator to encourage you to think about Pesach from an adult's perspective: This

is the festival of liberation from Egypt, of freedom and of beginning the Jewish people's relationship with God. Therefore, if we look at *chametz* as a symbol of something deeper, what are the things in our lives of which we need to rid or cleanse ourselves, in order to be free? How might the abstinence enrich us and how might it impoverish us? What does that enrichment or impoverishment teach us about how we ought to be living our lives the rest of the year?

As adults, what does it even mean to us to be free? In what ways are we not yet free?

Similarly, "*Mitzrayim*", the Hebrew word for Egypt, essentially means "narrow places". If you think about it, what are your narrow places? What are the areas in which you continue to get stuck, day after day, year after year? What behaviors would you be willing to move beyond if the consequence meant growth and development for your soul? And, when last did you pay attention to your soul in any case?

These are just some of the special gifts and opportunities that Pesach offers to us, as adults, every year.

And regarding the gift of ever increasing Jewish depth and understanding, Temple Beth David is happy to offer that to you almost every single week of the year. Just come join Howard, the rest of the group and me at 9:00 a.m. on Shabbat mornings and pull up a chair. No prior knowledge or Torah-learning experience is necessary.

Chag Sameach,
Michael

**An Invitation**

Now that the ice has melted from Rochester sidewalks, I can again look forward to one of my great Shabbos pleasures, a walk on the Brickyard Trail. Located just east of our parking lot, this path joins Elmwood Avenue with Westfall Road. The round trip from the parking lot takes about forty minutes on a flat, paved surface. After socializing at Kiddush, I love putting on my sneakers and setting out to enjoy a little exercise. Over the weeks of good weather, I watch the wildflowers bloom in succession and listen to the birds sing. On any given day, a deer may cross my path or a mother goose may let me know in no uncertain terms that I had better not come too close

to her baby. Encounters with nature combined with a brisk walk refresh my spirit.

I invite you to join me any day that you see me heading out. I would enjoy your company and I all but guarantee you a great Shabbos rest afterwards.

Listening to our congregants

The health of scent-sensitive congregants recently came to the attention of both the Rabbi and me. After a conversation with a member affected by perfume in our sanctuary and a discussion with the Board of Trustees, we arrived at a simple solution. We have placed notices in the temple hallways requesting that scents and perfumes not be worn on the premises of the temple. A weekly reminder also appears in the temple email newsletter. So far these notices have worked well but we are happy to revisit the issue if future adjustments need to be made.

The kind people who volunteer to clean up after Kiddush, especially on the days when Shelly is not available, sometimes end up working as late as 2:00 p.m. on our day of rest. We appreciate their work and want to be considerate of their right to enjoy Shabbos. Knowing that some congregants would appreciate a shorter service, the rabbi and other congregants are making an effort to keep our services to the perfect length - long enough for us to have a full spiritual experience and socializing before the Torah service, but short enough to keep service "extras" to a minimum. With this in mind, we ask you to limit visiting before the Torah service to a friendly hello and to save more involved conversations for a more relaxed time at Kiddush. We are also requesting that announcements be made from the bimah only and that you send bimah announcements to Rebecca by noon on Wednesday.

A short comment by a congregant has changed the way we serve coffee at Kiddush. He remarked that at the end of Kiddush, all the decaf coffee was gone, but that there was plenty of regular coffee left. We are now using the larger pot for decaf during our social time. Tent signs designate which pot is which.

There are often simple solutions to such large problems as health and to such small problems as enjoying our Kiddush more fully; nonetheless, they are all important and reflect the value that we place on the happiness of our congregants.

With best wishes to my temple family,

Maxine

All in the Family

May Birthdays

Alice Nussbaum	May 2
Kevin Fleissig	May 4
Vivien Rothberg	May 13
Karen Schaffer	May 14
Susan Lederer	May 20
Judy Wolbert	May 21
Elena Davis	May 24
Maxine Newman	May 24
Ron Kraus	May 25
Burt Segelin	May 26
Sandra Cohen	May 28
Shelby Nelson	May 29

May Anniversaries

Tom & Judy Wolbert	May 24
Michael & Laurie Peres	May 29
Richard & Joyce Towber	May 30
Ron & Nancy Kraus	May 31
David & Sue Langmann	May 31
Burt & Marilyn Segelin	May 31

Thank you to Lilly Sherman for
sponsoring the Shabbat soup.

June Birthdays

Barbara Grosh	June 1
Jonathan Rich	June 1
Risa Saltzman	June 1
Rheva Kleinberg	June 2
Sue Eckhaus	June 6
Lisa Keeley	June 8
Nancy Kraus	June 10
Ruth Aranov	June 11
Judy Fleissig	June 16
Juliet Lande	June 16
Joanne Katzman	June 22
Olivia Meynadasy	June 26
Mira Phillips	June 30

June Anniversaries

Myron & Rheva Kleinberg	June 7
Mike & Toby Berke	June 13
Steve Meyers & Barbara Weber	June 14
Jim & Sharon Parkman	June 14
Jonathan Rich & Bonnie Abrams	June 16
Ron & Jean Brandwein	June 18
Ed & Sue Drexler	June 18
Dan & Alice Nussbaum	June 20
Paul & Judy Eissenstat	June 25

Please join us as we celebrate the installation of

**RABBI
MICHAEL
SILBERT**



**Sunday, June 16, 2019
2 p.m.**

Guest speaker:
Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
President of Hebrew College

Temple Beth David
2131 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Dessert reception to follow
in the Atrium.

RSVP by June 7
266-3223 | office@tbdrochester.org

*Contributions in honor of Rabbi Michael's installation
are welcomed and may be made to:
the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund c/o Temple Beth David.*

Donations

Received February 16, 2019 - April 15, 2019

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Sidney Gallant

Harry Gordon

Rose L. Gordon

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Harry Cohen

Sandra Cohen

Jordan Cohen

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Rabbi Michael Silbert

Sarisa Zoghlin Reading Haftarah

Susanne Esan

Leonard Lutsky

Phil & Sue Lederer

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Betty Segelin

Burt & Marilyn Segelin

GET WELL WISHES

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Sue Drexler

Maxine Manjos

IN HONOR

Andrew Berger

Lewis Rothberg & Shelby Nelson

Maxine Manjos

Howard Brill & Barbara Grosh

Karen Schaffer

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Howard Brill & Barbara Grosh

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Hamentashen Team

Maxine Manjos

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Richard & Joyce Towber

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Marsha Greenberg

Our heartfelt thanks to the many donors, too many to mention here, who made this year's Passover Soldiers Project such an enormous success with more than eighty packages sent worldwide.

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Upcoming@Shul

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

Kabbalat Shabbat FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

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

May 31
June 14



TEMPLE
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Shavuot Services

Erev Shavuot Saturday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.
Study and Service at Temple Beth Am

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Shavuot Day 1 Sunday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m.
Service at BHBI

* * * * *

Shavuot Day 2 Monday, June 10 at 9:00 a.m.
Service and Yizkor at Temple Beth David



Books & Brunch

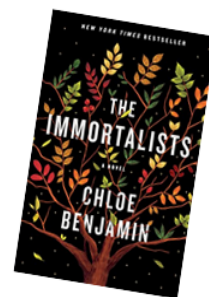
Join us for a discussion of Jewish-themed books over brunch.

Hosted by: Ellen Gertzog
69 Westland Avenue, Brighton

Sundays @ 10 a.m. – noon

May 5: *The Immortalists*, by Chloe Benjamin

Open to the community! RSVP by the May 1:
Ellen Gertzog 585.461.4336 egertzog@gmail.com



TEMPLE
BETH
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Yahrzeits

May 2

Harry Abelson
Elizabeth Daniel
Marvin Foigelman
Sarah Stiller
Sylvia Vicker

May 3

Obbe Abelson
Ira Goldstein
Esther Levy
Penelope Nelson
Sally Zeif

May 4

Esther Herzog
Belle Schwartz

May 5

Sidney Gallant
Ruben Wolinsky

May 6

Molly Baker
Sidney Stamler

May 7

Ida Sanow

May 8

Hyman Moldawsky Marlowe
Anne Neurock

May 9

Blanche Diamond
Ida Ritz

May 10

Gerald Norry
Herbert Rosenstein

May 11

Gladys Garey

May 12

Harry Gordon
Samuel Newman
Solomon Sherman

May 13

Rose Feinberg
Beatrice Vine

May 14

Louis Goldberg
Raymond Kinel
Rabbi Samuel Porroth
Baruch Stiller

May 15

Samuel Greenberg
Bernard Servetnick

May 16

Michael Rosen
Jack Stephen Spitulnick
Meyer Weinstein

May 17

Toni Bernay
Max Dehaas
Abraham Flaxman
Etta Fleisher
William Friedman
Rywka Kinel

May 18

Ephraim Strassman

May 19

Sarah Markus

May 21

Michelle Blumkin
Merrill Cohen
Kathryn Schwartz

May 22

Rhoda David

May 23

Jacob Kinel
Max Stark

May 24

Bruce Newman
Lillian Pies

May 25

Solomon Berke
Sylvia Peskowitz

May 26

Irwin Applebaum
Frank Donsky
Hetty Mentel

May 28

Phillip Keirn

May 29

Mildred Gertzog
David Siegel

May 30

Irving S. Bridge
Betty Herman
Mary Manoff
Hyman Wasserman

June 1

Arthur Dell
Harry Eissenstat

June 2

David Bauman
Lena Schaub Smith

June 3

Elza Glanz

June 5

Sarah Lichterman
Mollie Markus
Gloria (Goldie) Sosne

June 6

Milton Stoler
Jacob Tillim

June 7

Samuel Hochman
Albert Manoff
Harry Schiller

June 8

Anne Hoffman
Jack Weber

June 9

Martin Tillim

June 10

Harry Ambush
Doris Cherkasky
Solomon Kashtan
Leo Langmann
Dorothy Shindel

June 11

Calvin Rosenbaum
Sylvia Roth

June 13

Harris Markus
Ben Smith

June 14

Abraham Grossman
William Horowitz
Harriet G. Levy

June 15

Al Rosen
Jacob Stiller
Annette Strassman

June 16

Arlen Brodsky

June 17

Florence Geiger
Leonard Brent Goldberg

June 18

Joseph M. Hamoff
Morris Levin
Arnold Sharf

Date Observed

June 19

Leah Donsky
Sara Rouso

June 20

Harold Baker
Hyman Goldenberg
Louis Levin
Esther Pickus
Louis Schatz

June 21

Nellie Eissenstat

June 22

Harry Cohen
Lena Mae Horowitz
Lois Markus
Thelma Messinger

June 23

Estelle Frieder Berke
Irving Black
Janet Steinfeld-Feldman

June 24

Eunice Freedman

June 25

Esther (Erna) Przewuzman
Ida Rosenbaum

June 26

Joseph Blumkin
Nellie Zack

June 27

Missy Brazer

June 28

Eugene Brandwein
Isabel Freedman
David Shur

June 29

Hyman Freedman
Ezra Lempert
Sylvia D. Stiller

June 30

Burton Lurie
Philip Lurie

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!

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Donations and dues payments may now be accepted online! Visit our **DONATE** page at www.tbdrochester.org/donate 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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