

## From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

[rabbi@tbdrochester.org](mailto:rabbi@tbdrochester.org)



What you might remember about the festival of Purim from your childhood is that the tedium (for some) of listening to Megillat Esther being read is frequently interrupted

by the cacophony of groggers each time the community hears the dreaded villain Haman's name being uttered. That, and the costumes. And the hamantaschen. Mmmm – the hamantaschen...

It's an interesting holy day, and in fact, some would question whether it really is a holy day at all. For if one were to look closely at the text of the megillah, in Hebrew or English, one would notice that the festival seems to be missing any religious spirit. So much so, that the word "God" - in any one of its myriad Hebrew translations - is totally absent; it does not appear a single time! Furthermore, the story is a very concrete, thisworld account of a campaign to overturn an otherwise undocumented genocidal plot against the Jews of Persia in the second- or third-century BCE. Arguably, the only theme of Jewish religious significance present is the mention of fasting.

So, nu? Why bother?

Our Sages of Blessed Memory explored Purim and taught that although the megillah's narrative is superficial, we need to read more deeply into it in order to reveal a concealed, and therefore not immediately obvious, layer to the story. This layer is resplendent in religious and spiritual symbolism and is consistent with the story's theme of revealing that which is not at first obvious, e.g. Esther's Jewish identity, the relationship between Esther and Mordechai, Haman's true aspirations, etc. (Hence the masks and costumes which playfully conceal our true identity from each other.)

We learn in Esther Rabbah (3:10) that every mention of "king" in the story is actually a hidden reference to God, whom we also know as the "King of kings", and therefore when it is written that Esther stands before the king, we are to see an

allusion to the representative of the Jewish people standing before God. The Zohar goes even further to teach that there is a hidden connection between Purim and Yom Kippur (in Hebrew: Yom HaKiPurim = מִי רִכְפוּהִיּוֹם). (It explains that the Ki = כִּי is nothing other than the Hebrew prefix meaning "like"; so in other words, Yom HaKiPurim really means "The Day that is LIKE Purim". And how do they justify this claim? By drawing parallels between the two: between Esther entering the king's inner sanctum to stand before him on one particular day, pleading for the lives of the Jewish people to be spared, just as the High Priest enters the inner chamber of the Holy of Holies once a year on the fast day of Yom Kippur, when he stands before God and petitions for the lives of the Jewish people to be spared.

Maimonides even taught that when the Messiah comes, even though the books of the Prophets and the Writings will be forgotten, Megillat Esther will still be remembered and hence Purim will still be observed, as testament to its importance.

The timeless relevance of Purim, as I see it, does not emanate from the idea that in every age there is someone who wishes to destroy us. No; for me, spiritual survival trumps physical survival and therefore the key message that Purim gifts to us, is: "Open your eyes! Look around at everything in your life, scratch beneath the surface and uncover for yourself the deeper meaning of your life: the reality of all your blessings, the reality of your good fortune, of each and every gift you have been given, from all of your loved ones, to the meal you just ate, to the roof over your head, to this new day."

Purim is a reminder to us – because most of us need it! – to live gratefully and to be constantly seeking and recognizing the blessings of the life we live. Come celebrate it together with us!

Chag Purim Same'ach – a happy Purim to you,

*Michael*



On Tuesday, March 10, we will celebrate Purim. Many of us are familiar with three traditions associated with the holiday: eating a festive meal, hearing the Megillah read, and giving baskets of food and sweets to others (mishloach manot).

Last year, Ellen Gertzog reminded us of a fourth less familiar Purim tradition: giving money to those in need. She encouraged donations in the name of Temple Beth David to two organizations, one national or international in scope and the other directed toward our local community.

Inspired by Ellen, I have consulted with other temple leaders and have chosen two charities to receive Purim donations from our congregation this year. Please read about them and, if you wish further information, consult the website given for each. Then join your fellow congregants in this effort to honor a Jewish tradition that calls upon our better selves to remember those in need.

To donate, call the temple office by Monday, March 9. On Purim we will send all the money we raise to AJWS and Rochester Construction Training Center. Any amount will make a difference and help to fulfill the important mitzvah of charity.

### **American Jewish World Service**

AJWS was founded in 1985 by American Jews who wanted to join together as global citizens to help some of the poorest and most oppressed people around the globe. Today, AJWS is the only Jewish organization dedicated solely to ending poverty and promoting human rights in the developing world.

AJWS invests more than \$30 million a year to promote global human rights. The organization's history includes launching the LGBT Uganda Fund to help defeat the Ugandan anti-homosexuality bill.

Its programs are far-reaching and range from international earthquake relief to offering training programs in improved agricultural techniques.

This charity was selected by Rabbi Silbert. Learn more at [ajws.org](http://ajws.org)

### **Rochester Construction Training Center**

Rochester Construction Training Center prepares individuals to become employable by teaching them a gamut of skills including carpentry, electrical work and plumbing. The center also teaches interviewing and telephone skills and offers computer training.

Its trainees may be youth just starting out in the job market or older adults with outdated skills or in other circumstances that make them hard to employ. The Center makes a point of accepting individuals who have a criminal record and who otherwise might find it impossible to work their way back into society and support their families.

This charity was selected by Barbara Grosh. Learn more at [rochesterconstructiontrainingcenter.org](http://rochesterconstructiontrainingcenter.org).

Best wishes to my temple family,  
Maxine

# All in the Family

## March Birthdays

Michael Peres	March 7
Joyce Towber	March 11
Eliana Lande	March 18
Seth Katzman	March 20
Michelle Gross	March 21
Harry Franklin	March 23
Anne Goldin	March 24
Mobeen Shirazi	March 26
Kellie Hyman	March 28
Roberta Kinel	March 29

## April Birthdays

Elijah Silbert	April 6
Harriet Driss	April 8
Henry Markowitz	April 10
Rhea Feinberg	April 12
Lisa Klein	April 14
Marsha Greenberg	April 16
Phillip Lederer	April 19
Lauren Yesowitch	April 24
Susan Wood	April 25
Richard Towber	April 26
Martin Yesowitch	April 26
Judy Levy	April 29

## Anniversaries

Phillip & Susan Lederer	March 4
Neal & Sue Eckhaus	April 6
Marc Lande & Linda Servetnick	April 30

The Temple Beth David family extends heartfelt condolences to the family of long time member, Irving Mindlin.

Thank you to Alison Helms and Jonathan, Maddy and Abby Feldman, and David Langmann for sponsoring kiddush, to Cindy Halpern and Maxine Manjos for sponsoring the cholent, and to Bernie Roth and Karen Schaffer for sponsoring the kiddush soup.



## Save the Date for Purim

The Small Shul Collaborative (including Temple Beth David) will celebrate Purim at

**Monday, March 9 - 7:00pm**

**Congregation Beth Hamedresh – Beth Israel  
1369 East Avenue**

This will be an event for the entire family with entertainment, refreshments and Megillah reading . . . come in costume!



## Guess Who's Coming to Seder?

### First Seder - Wednesday, April 8

Temple Beth David is organizing another special meal partnership for the first night of Passover

RSVP to Linda Servetnick at [landeserv@gmail.com](mailto:landeserv@gmail.com) or 585-820-4615 by March 25 if you would like to host a Seder, and invite guests, or want to be a guest at someone's Seder.

### Save the Date - Second Seder

April 9 Community Seder at Temple Beth El

# Donations

Received December 16, 2019 - February 15, 2020

## **DAVID SOLOMON FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Irving Mindlin**

Howard & Helen Kashtan  
William & Ellen Gertzog  
Morene Bodner  
Paul & Judy Eissenstat  
Bernard Roth  
Steve & Darlene Sherman  
Maxine Newman  
Myron & Rheva Kleinberg  
Stuart & Sandra Brown  
Dan & Alice Nussbaum

**Marvin Davis**

Ronald Lessner  
Ronald & Nancy Kraus  
Paul & Judy Eissenstat

**Frieda Kupferman Brill**

Howard & Helen Kashtan  
Dan & Alice Nussbaum

**Sylvia Stiller**

Howard & Helen Kashtan  
Ronald & Nancy Kraus

**Eugene Roth**

**Martin Roth**

**Morris Klein**

Bernard Roth

**Marie Goldwasser**

**Nathan Goldwasser**

Fay Neuberg

**Pauline Reitzfeld**

**Leonard Gordon**

Paul & Judy Eissenstat

**Irving M. Lubitow**

Howard & Helen Kashtan

**Abraham Lutzky**

Phillip & Susan Lederer

**Bernie Fleissig**

Kevin & Judy Fleissig

**Charles Conwell**

Lewis Rothberg & Shelby Nelson

**Sam Cohen**

Sandra Cohen

**THANK YOU BILL & ELLEN**

**GERTZOG**

**Kevin & Judy Fleissig**

## ***IN SUPPORT***

**Bernard Roth**

**Deborah Phillips**

## **RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Barbara Goldman**

**Rae Goldman**

Daniel Goldman

**Frieda Kupferman Brill**

Ronald & Carol Schott

**Irving Mindlin**

Howard & Suzanne Walter

Dan & Risa Saltzman

**Rabbi Laurence Skopitz**

Sharon Brodsky

## ***IN HONOR OF KEVIN FLEISSIG RETIREMENT***

**Martin & Lauren Yesowitch**

## ***PEACE ON EARTH***

**Lilly Sherman**

## **MITZVAH KIDDUSH FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Irving Mindlin**

Rhea Feinberg & family

Paula Ouriel

**Eli Rothstein**

**Minnie Haymoff**

Bill & Lisa Keeley

**Robert N. Herman**

Phillip & Susan Lederer

**Milton Lande**

Marc Lande & Linda Servetnick

## **MARSHA FISHMAN YOUTH**

### **EDUCATION FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Sara Gorelick**

Dolly Fishman

**Joseph Klein**

Helen S. Klein & family

**Irving Mindlin**

William & Ethel Farash

**MAZEL TOV RABBI**

**ALAN BACHMAN**

**Robert Kessler**

## **HERB KRAUS ADULT ED FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Frieda Kupferman Brill**

Lisa Klein

Karen Schaffer

Bernard Roth

Maxine Manjos

**Irving Mindlin**

Maxine Manjos

Karen Schaffer

## ***IN APPRECIATION OF***

### ***TORAH STUDY***

**Robert & Lisa Fogel**

## **TORAH REPAIR FUND**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Dora Lutzky**

Phil & Sue Lederer

**Fajwel Kinel**

Roberta Kinel

**Irving Mindlin**

Harry & Adele Gan

Lisa Klein

## **SOLDIERS PROJECT**

### ***IN MEMORY***

**Donna Wexler Larca**

**Laurie Feuerstein Walsh**

**Lillian Schneider**

**Sheldon Schneider**

Sidney Markus

**Harry Vine**

**Max Gross**

Stanley & Michelle Gross

## ***IN SUPPORT***

**Robert & Catherine Friedman**

## **TU B'SHEVAT TREE PROJECT**

### ***IN SUPPORT***

**Bernard Roth**

**Karen Schaffer**

**Maxine Manjos**

**Donate**



Donate online at  
[www.tbdrochester.org](http://www.tbdrochester.org)



# Upcoming@Shul

## Kabbalat Shabbat

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Celebrate the end of a busy week with a relaxing, soulful service to welcome Shabbat. Singing and happiness guaranteed! Mark your calendars for 6:00 PM each Friday night!

Arrive at 6:00 PM for service and stay for the optional, not potluck vegetarian dinner at 7:00 PM, served in room 106 on:

**March 27**

**April 24**

RSVP is required for dinner, no later than the previous Wednesday. For information or to make a reservation, contact Ronna Marsh at 585.473.4317 or [ronnamarsch@yahoo.com](mailto:ronnamarsch@yahoo.com).



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## Books & Brunch

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

**Sunday 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Open to the community**

**March 15: The Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming a Life Through the Pages of a Lost Journal** by Lily Koppel  
Rescued from a dumpster on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, a discarded diary brings to life the glamorous, forgotten world of an extraordinary young woman in NYC in the 1920s and 1930s.  
**RSVP to Linda Servetnick by March 11**  
585.820.4615 or [landeserv@gmail.com](mailto:landeserv@gmail.com)

**June 7: Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love** by Lara Vapnyar  
This is a short story collection which features Brighton Beach emigres.  
**RSVP to Carol Schott by June 3**  
585.329.3546 or [cjwschott@gmail.com](mailto:cjwschott@gmail.com)



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# Yahrzeits

## Date Observed

**March 1**  
Minnie Blumkin  
Shirley Shapiro

**March 5**  
Lillian Abelson  
Sara Brodsky  
Norman Klein  
Harry Roxin

**March 7**  
Sonya Newman

**March 10**  
Faye Goldin

**March 13**  
Florence Etingoff  
Max Palagyi

**March 14**  
Gertrude Brotsky  
Jacob Haymoff  
Morris Herman  
Samuel Markus

**March 15**  
Dorothy Bernberg  
Annette Harris  
Albert Marcusfield  
Jacob Schwartz

**March 17**  
Leila Markus  
Martin Miller

**March 18**  
Helen Langmann  
Abraham Rothberg  
Anna Weinstein

**March 19**  
Louis Klein

**March 20**  
Jacob Goldman

**March 21**  
Jordan Cohen

**March 22**  
Mollie Roth

**March 23**  
Harry Cohen  
Molly Cohen  
Sophie Isaacson  
Jewell Rothstein

**March 24**  
Harry Herman  
Stephen Sigelow

**March 25**  
Bessie Klein  
Betty Segelin

**March 26**  
Samuel Katzman

**March 27**  
Benjamin Ritter  
Esther Stein

**March 28**  
Herman H. Levine  
Florence Sanow Rappaport

**April 1**  
Barbara Berger

**April 2**  
Minetta Klein

**April 3**  
Maurice Phillips

**April 5**  
Richard Braiman  
Sadie Leitman

**April 6**  
Katherine Gan  
Ruth Haymoff Comisar  
Lester Rappaport

**April 7**  
Jackie Corbett

**April 8**  
Sylvia Kowal

**April 9**  
Rita Schnidman

**April 11**  
Blanche Gordon  
Regina Schott

**April 13**  
Allen Greenberg  
Harvey Louis Priceman  
Harold Rosenbaum

**April 15**  
Samuel Applebaum

**April 16**  
Ruth Drexler

**April 17**  
Eli Caplin  
Sylvia Gertzog  
Harold Phillips

**April 18**  
Milton Kerker  
Leonard Lutzky

**April 19**  
Nancy Grube

**April 20**  
Anita Bauman

**April 21**  
Harry Abelson  
Marvin Foigelman  
Sylvia Vicker

**April 22**  
Obbe Abelson  
Penelope Nelson  
Sally Zeif

**April 23**  
Belle Schwartz

**April 24**  
Sidney Gallant

**April 25**  
Molly Baker

**April 26**  
Ida Sanow

**April 28**  
Blanche Diamond

**April 29**  
Gerald Norry  
Herbert Rosenstein

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.



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## 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:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Message:**

- ☐ Get Well Wishes \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Happy Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Congratulations on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ In Appreciation of \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fund:** If no fund is specified, your donation will be made to the David Solomon Operating Fund. Thank you.

- ☐ David Solomon Operating Fund  
☐ Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund  
☐ Rabbi Discretionary Fund  
☐ Mitzvah Kiddush Donation

- ☐ Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund  
☐ Rabbi Skopitz Fund  
☐ Torah Repair Fund  
☐ Soldiers Project

**Donate**



Donations and dues payments may now be accepted online! Visit our donate page at [www.tbdrochester.org/donate](http://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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- **David Solomon Operating Fund**

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