



As we approach the High Holy Days this year, I find myself feeling extremely conflicted. This is the highlight of the Jewish year from so many angles: our calendar, theology,

personal growth, self-reflection, renewal and community, to name but a few. However, this year the “community” aspect gives me what I can only describe as a feeling akin to being punched in the stomach. As a rabbi, as a Jew, I am so aware that this year community will be painfully absent, almost as if a limb has been cut off from the Jewish people.

Praying together, seeing old friends, simply being together, are all so integral to our High Holy Day experience. When the decision was made to not have in-person services this year, it was made with deep thought, caution and even reluctance. Yet for reasons which I’ve written to you about in the previous edition of this bulletin, there was ultimately no option.

But still. There’s nothing easy about this.

As the rabbi of our community, I care greatly about your spiritual wellbeing. Therefore, my greatest fear and concern is that one of the outcomes of not having services this year will be that many might be inclined to just take a “pass” from the High Holy Days altogether. Please don’t get me wrong: there’s no judgment here. Rather, it’s an acknowledgment that not having services is going to make some people feel that without them, it’s just not the High Holy Days! For some of us, coming to Temple Beth David on these days defines the occasion.

From the time that quarantine and social distancing were introduced in March, the *Shoah*

(Holocaust) has been on my mind more than usual. At first, my thoughts were focused on how barely being able to leave one’s home must be a traumatic revisiting of the terror of hiding in an attic for months or years on end for those who can still remember those experiences. Then, as it became evident what an impact the quarantine was having on Jewish religious and communal life, I thought to myself: “It’s okay. We’ll get over this. We’ve been through worse.” And now with the High Holy Days approaching, I find myself thinking: “We dare not turn our backs on Jewish life because of a virus. If our people could celebrate festivals back *then*, then we certainly can do so today.”

“Back *then*”? Here’s what I’m getting at:

- In late 1942, in the Theresienstadt camp, someone stole a large block of wood from the Nazis running the camp. Into it, they carved an ornate chanukiah with nine candle holders and a Star of David. A Hebrew inscription curves over the top: “Who is like you, O Lord, among the celestials?” (On display at The Jewish Museum in New York City)
- In 1943, in the notorious Bergen-Belsen, eleven prisoners saved scraps of fat from their food and used loose threads to form makeshift wicks. A carved raw potato served as the candle-holder, while a wooden shoe was repurposed into a children’s dreidel. (The History Channel)
- In 1944, Rabbi Naftali Stern, a Hungarian Jewish inmate of the Wolfsberg forced-labor camp, wrote out the Rosh HaShanah service from memory, writing with a pencil stub on scraps torn from bags of cement he had purchased with bread rations. After the war, he recalled, “We prayed on Rosh Hashanah

(Continued on page 3)

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 take pride in being a friendly, participatory, egalitarian community, welcoming all to be a part of our synagogue family.



Received your TBD Directory? Looking forward to receiving your High Holy Days packet? This message is sent with the intent of getting you better acquainted with the Directory and of testing what facts you might know about our upcoming unconventional High Holy Days celebration. And since everything else is unconventional, why not your president's September/October bulletin message? To my knowledge, it's never before been done in the form of a quiz, but there's a first for everything. OK, so get out a pencil and let's go! You will find the answers on page 4.

Look in your TBD Directory to answer these:

1. Which temple members claim addresses in Florida?
2. Name members living in the New York towns of Honeoye, Hilton, and Penn Yan.
3. Now take a look at all those photos. Betcha didn't know that Rabbi Silbert took three of them.

The question is, WHICH THREE? I'll narrow it down for you:

- A. The Franklin Family
- B. Barbara Grosh and Howard Brill
- C. The Katzman Family
- D. Frances Neurock and friend
- E. Lilly Sherman
- F. The Silbert Kest family

Now for questions relating to High Holy Days.

4. Measured from mouthpiece to the other end, Henry Berger's shofar is 38 inches long. How long is it if you measure along the spine of its curve?

- A. 45.5 inches
- B. 49.5 inches
- C. 53.5 inches

5. Our High Holy Days cantor, Ellen Brandwein, recently came to Rochester to visit her parents, Jean and Ron, and to record melodies for the High Holy Days packet with Rabbi Silbert. She drove to Rochester from her home in:

- A. Charlottesville, Virginia
- B. Charlotte, North Carolina
- C. Charleston, South Carolina

6. In the High Holy Day packet you will find a poem on the Binding of Isaac written by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, who was the featured speaker at the installation of Rabbi Silbert at Temple Beth David. Rabbi Cohen Anisfeld is a native of Rochester and as a child attended:

- A. Temple Beth David
- B. Temple Beth El
- C. Temple B'rith Kodesh

7. In the High Holy Day packet, you will find links for sermons, songs, and shofar blowing that have been uploaded to:

- A. YouTube
- B. Zoom
- C. TikTok

8. When we meet for Tashlich, we will

- A. wear masks
- B. stay socially distanced at six feet apart from each other
- C. give virtual hugs only
- D. all the above

I hope you had fun with this. I had fun making it for my Temple family.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Maxine

(answers on page 4)

All in the Family

September Birthdays

Noah Meyers	September 1
Judy Eissenstat	September 2
Rachel Weinstein	September 4
Henry Berger	September 5
Marilyn Segelin	September 5
Daniel Goldman	September 8
Toby Berke	September 12
Jean Brandwein	September 12
Leo Katzman	September 17
Lewis Rothberg	September 22
Myron Kleinberg	September 24
Karen Berger	September 27
Laurie Peres	September 29
Bruce Kielar	September 30

October Birthdays

Daniel Katzman	October 3
Howard Brill	October 7
Carol Schott	October 7
Ronald Schott	October 10
Stanley Gross	October 11
Eva Abrams	October 30
Florence Phillips	October 31

September & October Anniversaries

Jonathan Feldman & Alison Helms	September 2
Kevin & Judy Fleissig	September 5
Kevin McTighe & Harriet Driss	September 17
Rabbi Aviva Berg & Arthur Bernberg	September 20
Rabbi Michael Silbert & Rachel Kest	September 25
Scott & Lori Davis	October 16

and the service was lovely, the service was good - to the extent that one can say that." (Yad VaShem, Jerusalem)

- Our own Eva Abrams has recounted many times to listeners how when she and others discovered one day inside Auschwitz that it was Yom Kippur, they chose not to eat their meager rations, instead saving them until after the fast had ended at nightfall.

I hope that if you know anything about me by now, it's that the joyful and redeeming aspects of Jewish life are what motivate and propel me to find meaning in it. While we never forget what has occurred to our people in the past, I do not typically find myself justifying Jewish "continuity" on the fact that there were those for whom it was prohibited. But this year, my friends, is different.

This year, inconvenienced as we may be, deflated and disappointed as we may be, we draw inspiration from those who came before us who in the very darkest of days were determined to create light, song and praise. If they could then, then how much more so can we now.

To help overcome the challenges of making the High Holy Days a completely "at home" experience this year, Temple Beth David's "2020 / 5081 Guide to Celebrating the High Holy Days" will follow in the mail in the next few weeks. The Guide, which is described in greater detail elsewhere in this bulletin, has been especially compiled and designed to help members of our community prepare themselves and get into the New Year frame of mind, find personal relevance and inspiration in the Holy Days and engage in some related activities. Also, as promised, a selection of highlights from the services including sermons have been prerecorded by our guest cantor, Ellen Brandwein, and myself and will be available online should you choose to watch them. Lastly, Howard Brill will facilitate a series of live online discussions (on Zoom) for those wishing to learn even more.

And so I offer you these words of encouragement: Although the High Holy Days will certainly be different this year, may all of us make the best of it and be confident that brighter times lie ahead of us when we will be together once again. In the meantime though, make an effort this year - for your own sake - so that you can experience the eternal rewards of the blessings of this season.

My very best wishes to you and your loved ones for a New Year that is filled with good health, joy and peace.

Michael

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Received June 16, 2020 - August 15, 2020

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Jacob Wexler

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The congregants of
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have donated funds to
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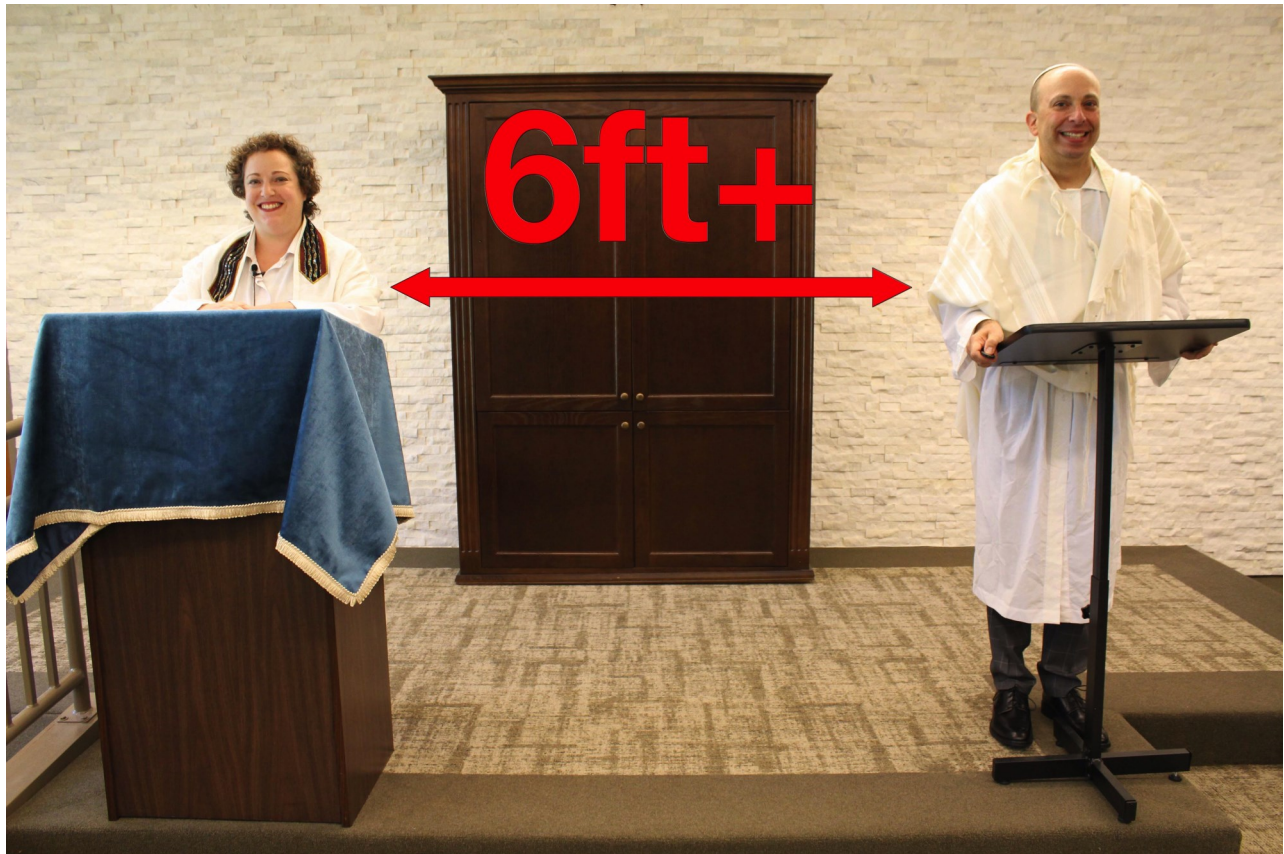
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Answers to the President's Quiz: 1. Rabbi Aviva Berg and Arthur Bernberg, Harry and Adele Gan, Gail Spitulnik 2. Beverly Zwick, Benson and Mindy Zoghlin, Ira and Sherry Goldman 3. The Katzman Family, Lilly Sherman, The Silbert Kest Family 4. (B) 49.5 inches 5. (C) Charleston, South Carolina 6. (C) Temple B'rith Kodesh 7. (A) YouTube 8. (D) all of the above



New for the New Year: High Holy Days Resource Packet

This year our High Holy Days observances will be different than ever before because we can't gather in full community. In addition to an online recording of the main High Holy Day prayers led by **Rabbi Silbert** and **Ellen Brandwein**, we have prepared a packet of inspirational resources in hopes of enriching your at-home preparation and observances of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Your packet will contain readings to use during Elul to help you get in the spirit before and during the upcoming holidays.

You may wish to gather with family or friends to delve into the ideas together. The readings will be drawn from a variety of difference sources. There will also be some links to online sites. It is our hope that you will find some ideas and message that especially speak to you and lead to a meaningful High Holiday observance.

Expect to receive the packet in early September.

If you would like to borrow a prayer book for use at home during the High Holy Day season, please contact the temple office.



Thank you to **Bruce Kielar** for his design of the **Book of Remembrance**. The design evokes warmth that hopefully connects those who use the book with loving and warm memories of their loved ones.

Bruce designed the temple logo and many of our special event posters and graphics. We appreciate his talents and care of Temple Beth David.

Yahrzeits

Date Observed

September 1

Raymond Babin
Murray Grashow

September 2

Bernard Ettingoff

September 3

Burton C. Wandner

September 4

Selma Guttman

September 6

Harry Levy
Eli Schwartz

September 7

Rachel Freedman

September 8

Isadore Gertzog
Beverly Sigelow

September 9

Milton Drexler

September 10

Lottie Colucci
Florence Kaplan
Jack Kessler
Charles Skopitz
Seymour Stiller
Gerson Wegner

September 11

Reva Kerker
Arthur Towber

September 13

Sanuel Bauman
Samuel Goldin
Helen Halpern
Sylvia Stamler

September 14

Harry Shilman
Gittle Spokitz

September 15

Rhea Markus

September 16

Pauline Levy
Ida Phillips
Fanny Siegel

September 17

Isadore Gan
Arthur Goldman

September 18

Sidney Leitman

September 19

Rachel Miller

September 20

Paul Klein
Marlyn Plaut
Saar Porrath

September 21

Hermine Cohen

September 23

Rachel Gertzog
Blanche Saltzman

September 25

Bernice Black
Joseph Klein

September 26

Ruth Brandwein
Anna Fishman
Eleanor Miller
Chana Neuberger
Meyer Neuberger

September 28

Paul Halpern
Mark H. Rothstein
Harry Zoghlin

September 29

Mildred Feinberg

September 30

Lillian Cndles
Jonathan Gertzog

October 1

Max Forchheimer
Winnie Olmer
William Seigel

October 2

Shirley A. Frank
Oscar Skopitz
Michael Wexler

October 3

Ethel Cohen
Selma Eckhaus
Lillian Grashow
Beryl Lipschitz

October 5

Marsha Fishman
Arnold Fleisher
Sydney Frank
Rachel Ojalvo

October 6

Walter Kielar

October 7

Lily Guttenberg
Morton Meyers

October 8

Pearl Gallant
Yetta Moidel
Israel Schrier
Ida Tillim
Thelma Weinstein

October 12

Minnie Caplan
Bernice Raphael

October 13

Scott Grube
Esther Mann
Tillie (Toby) Rosen

October 14

John Schnidman
Ruth Somers

October 18

Harris Ceil
Stephen E. Jaffey
Martin Shilman

October 19

Herbert Hirsch
Paul Lederer
Meyer Lubitow
Sol Sharf

October 20

Nathan Sanow

October 21

Lesser Raphael
Mickey Schrier

October 22

Fannie Caplan
Rae Fleisher
Golde Millstone Hersch
Esther A. Schwartz

October 23

Sonia Lutzky
Sylvia Stiller

October 24

Ethel Stamler

October 25

Florence Kasanov

October 28

Essie Schwartz

October 29

Louis Gertzog
Irving Lubitow

October 30

Rose Babin

October 31

Joseph W. Phillips

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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