

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

rabbi@tbdrochester.org



It looks like we're reaching the beginning of the end. Dawn after the dark of night, calm after the storm. I hope. I pray.

At the time of writing, a vaccine which promises to bring a close to the global

nightmare that is Coronavirus, is about to be approved for general use in our country. Apparently despite leapfrogging the measures traditionally required for authorizing the use of new medications in this country, these vaccines on our horizon are safe, at least according to the remaining handful of officials who are still worthy of the public's trust. This is a bit of a sore point, actually; I do not believe that history will be kind to many of our leaders when it recalls some day how they dealt with this crisis. We had the right to expect an unwavering commitment to saving our lives, to sharing information, to looking us straight in the face and calling this what it is, to not making this about politics. But at 294,363 deaths as I write this (according to NBC News), it's been about incompetent individuals who lack a sense of reverence for the holiness of life. We deserved better.

Make that 294,364.

Fortunately, I have never experienced a natural disaster such as a tornado, hurricane, earthquake, etc. However, the images we usually see are of their aftermaths and they tell tales of unimaginable destruction at all levels: human, structural, financial and more. Well, if it were possible to take photographs of all of COVID-19's ravages, what would they show us? How does one take pictures of all the Torah study classes which went untaught? The number of minyanim that did not gather? How many times did Kaddish in memory of a loved one go unanswered? How might one graphically represent the number of *pesukim* – Torah verses – not chanted? What does the despair of a lonely senior, whose highlight of the week is experiencing community on a Shabbat morning, look like?

For us, the Temple Beth David community, our actual losses have paled in comparison to far too many others across our country. While a handful of our members have indeed contracted the virus, all of them are making good progress with their

recoveries; we are tremendously grateful that we have not lost anyone. But the price that our community has paid has still been great, nonetheless. Isolation, disappointment, disillusionment, depression, and more.

At first, we hoped that online programs would at least go *part* of the way in plugging up the hole, and I know that for some they have achieved at least a modicum of success. But for many if not all of us, a face on a screen is not a worthy substitute for the warmth of human touch and these stop-gap measures have invariably been wanting, to say the least of it. And then of course there are those who do not have access to a computer and therefore cannot even participate in these programs, imperfect though they may be.

The closeness of a vaccine notwithstanding, we still need to be cautious and exercise restraint. As much as we yearn for it to be over, we are not quite there yet and the numbers are still rising, now faster than ever; unfortunately, it is not yet safe for us to meet in our sanctuary.

However, we are in discussion about how and what to offer online on Shabbat - in lieu of in-person services - to get us through what we hope will be the final stretch. The sound of Lisa and Richard's voices leading us in prayer once again will – God and Spectrum Internet willing! – be with most of us very soon and surely sooner than we are asked to roll up our sleeves to receive two doses of Pfizer's best.

So, in addition to watching this space (or the weekly Newsletter, more likely) for news and updates about these developments, start warming up your vocal chords so that you're ready to sing along. (As a side note, if you've always wanted to chant from the Torah at TBD but have never had the time until now – or just been too intimidated – to learn, then this is your chance! I will be teaching *Lessons in Leining* at the Kollel, so take a look at their website or contact Rebecca or me for details.)

We're getting there. In the meantime, let's stick together and do whatever we can to be there for each other.

Michael

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.



Hello Fellow Congregants and Friends of TBD!

With the new calendar year (yes, it is finally 2021!) comes a change in leadership. Please join me in thanking Maxine Manjos and Barbara Grosh for their leadership these past two years. As well as serving as

president, I will be working closely with Lewis Rothberg. He will guide me and then next year I will guide the next president. This overlap will help the transition in leadership to go smoothly. All of the board members are continuing their service this year. A big thanks to all who participate on the board and in volunteer efforts. There are many of you whom I know only by face and not by name. I look forward to getting to know all of you whether for the first time or to get reacquainted. Feel free to call or send an email for a chat.

My family and I have been members of TBD since 2007. I served on the board years ago as the VP of Education. Most recently my volunteer efforts have been with maintaining the website and Facebook. Neal and I are the proud parents of Jacob (22), Sarah (20), and Hannah (18). They all attended TBD's Hebrew School and became B'nai Mitzvah at TBD. I was born in Rochester and grew up in Rochester and in the Finger Lakes. I have lived and worked in Rochester since graduating from college. I studied Judaism with Rabbi Marc Gruber, attended the Derekh Torah program offered by the JCC, and chose Judaism in 1996. I participated in an adult b'nai mitzvah program in 1998 and continued my studies with the extensive Melton program finishing in 2003. My husband and I were members at TBK for years before coming to TBD. We celebrated our wedding there and our kids were born while we were members.

My employment over the years has included chemistry and quality assurance positions. Currently, I am employed as an administrative assistant for the Leadership Development and Training department at Monroe Veterinary Associates. In addition to work and family, one of my major activities these past 10 years has been

fostering many, many creatures as part of the Lollypop Farm program. We are happy to have our 13 year old canine, Bentley, as part of our family.

As I write to you today - still in early December and still as the president elect - I have so many things to think about and to learn and to consider and to share. When I write to you again for the March/April bulletin I expect to have lots to tell you.

In closing, I'd like to share an experience I had recently. I read a #keeplookingup list on the internet back in October. I am almost always a positive person but the timing of the "not everything is cancelled" lists that were bouncing around were a good reminder. We all know how challenging our lives are now - much more so for some than others. Many of us have the same challenges as always with the added challenges of navigating and grieving the state of our world. Viewing things in a positive light, I believe it is important to remember that we have a lot of the same joys as always and there are many silver linings showing through the darkness.

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED!

Sunshine is not cancelled.
Sunset is not cancelled.
Spring is not cancelled.
Love is not cancelled.
Laughter is not cancelled.
Relationships are not cancelled.
Reading is not cancelled.
Writing is not cancelled.
Naps are not cancelled.
Music is not cancelled.
Singing is not cancelled.
Dancing is not cancelled.
Imagination is not cancelled.
Kindness is not cancelled.
Meaningful conversations are not cancelled.
Creativity is not cancelled.
Hope is not cancelled.

And I would add...going outdoors is not cancelled.

L'Shalom,

All in the Family

January Birthdays

Ethan Aranov	January 3
Aaron Freedman	January 3
Paul Eissenstat	January 8
Bruce Goldin	January 8
Hannah Eckhaus	January 12
Melissa Meynadasy	January 16
David Langmann	January 18
Mindy Zoghlin	January 23
Elaine Schaffer	January 24
Linda Servetnick	January 25
Sarisa Zoghlin	January 27

February Birthdays

Marc Lande	February 2
Bonnie Abrams	February 3
Marlena Berger	February 10
Susan Langmann	February 14
Gabe Franklin	February 17
Tom Wolbert	February 18
Helen Kashtan	February 23
Rabbi Michael Silbert	February 24
Arthur Bernberg	February 27



Bernie Roth has a new great grandson, Amram Uriel Roth, born November 17, 2020. His parents are Ezra and Jessica. They have three other children, Nachshon 5 1/2, Betzael 3 1/2 and Shilat, almost 2.

All six of them live in Boca Raton, FL. One month before she gave birth, Jessica ran a 5K pushing Shilat in a stroller.

Mazel tov, Bernie!



Hello everyone. Well here we are, looking much like all of you, with masks and shaggy haircuts. We've been here in Northampton MA a year now and all things considered, we're doing really well. We seem to have moved at the right time, to the right house, with the right stuff and to a community that has welcomed us and made us feel at home. Bill has picked up where he left off, very quickly finding a part time job teaching English to adults whose first languages are different. His work went all remote in March, and remains so for now. Ellen quickly found two book groups, volunteered for the Food Bank, tackled a massive need for weeding in our gardens, and joined a progressive political group and is very active. We're enjoying a lot of online offerings from our new synagogue and have also dabbled in

services and classes from synagogues far and wide. One of the few real advantages of the Zoom life. Kirby is very happy in her new yard and loves the very large off-leash dog park.

As you can see we built a lovely sukkah and our most successful pandemic socializing was during Sukkot. We invited people two at a time - eight different groups, offered simple refreshments and just sat and talked, socially distanced. It is interesting that the art of conversation and of listening to each other seems to be enjoying a renaissance in these times. Our only visitors from Rochester since the pandemic began were the Berger family, on their way to take Henry to Yale for his freshman year. It was lovely to see them and all of you are welcome once travel becomes feasible again. Next time you see the Bergers, be sure to ask them about the bear they saw amble through our yard...

Be well, stay safe and don't forget us!

Bill and Ellen

Bill - BGertzog@gmail.com 585-233-2196
Ellen - EGertzog@gmail.com 917-494-8977



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Received October 16, 2020 - December 15, 2020

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IN MEMORY

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Ruth Goldenberg

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Howard & Helen Kashtan
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Lessons in Leining: Learning to Chant Torah

Taught by Rabbi Michael Silbert, online via Zoom

Have you always wanted to be able to chant from the Torah, but never had the time until now - or just been too intimidated - to learn? Well, this is your opportunity to acquire this beautiful, ancient Jewish skill together with other adults, in a stress-free environment! Prerequisites: basic Hebrew reading skills and a willingness to prepare for classes. Participants will be required to purchase *The Art of Torah Cantillation: A Step-by-Step Guide to Chanting Torah* (Portnoy and Wolff). Because this class is focused on skill-acquisition, Michael will demonstrate and explain a technique for learning to chant Torah, and will also expect class-participation.

Mondays: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

January 4, 11, 25 February 1, 8, 15 March 1, 8

Registration is required, \$60 fee. To register, call 585-244-7060 or contact Kollel@tbk.org.
Temple Beth David members seeking financial assistance for this class may contact Rabbi Silbert at rabbi@tbdrochester.org.



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IN MEMORY

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Temple Beth David welcomes our newest member, Art Stoler

Please welcome new Temple Beth David member, Art Stoler. Art is a former teacher, coach, and businessman. He currently lives with his wife, Nancy, and his two grandchildren in Spencerport, NY.

Temple Beth David Member Directory

If you have not yet received a copy of the 2020 Temple Beth David member directory and would like one, please contact the temple office.

If you have made any recent changes to your address, phone number, or email address, or just want to suggest the best way to reach you, please let us know.

585-266-3223



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**For more news and information,
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Yahrzeits

Date Observed

January 1
Anna Alva
Sylvia Weber

January 2
Martin Roth

January 3
Max Gross
Abraham Lutzky
David Matis Przewuzman
Y'hoshua Schnidman
Nathan Zeif

January 5
Eugene Roth

January 6
Miriam Kaufman
Milton Lande
Irving Mindlin

January 7
Helen Steinberg

January 8
Sheldon Feuerstein
Bernard Kaufman
Donna Wexler Larca

January 9
Sheldon Himmelstein

January 11
Rae Goldman
Herbert Kraus
Max Schwartz

January 13
Benjamin Rosenbaum

January 14
Esther Aroesty

January 16
Yuda Kinel
L. Grant Meeker

January 18
Norman Gilman

January 19
Ada Rosenthal
Abe Rousso

January 20
Ida Gertzog

January 21
Arthur Bauman
Laurie Feuerstein Walsh

January 22
Julius Himmelstein
Regina Schier

January 23
Bertha Dobkin

January 25
Barbara Goldman
Minnie Haymoff

January 26
Morris Klein
George Moidel
Lee Schwartz

January 27
Dorothy Schwartz

January 28
Ida "Toots" Skopitz

January 29
Charles Jaffey

January 30
Lillian Schneider

February 1
Charles Conwell
Garson Kleinberg
David Nussbaum

February 2
Max Gordon
Harry Sigelow

February 3
Miriam Bauman

February 6
Florence Levinson

February 8
Herman Miller

February 11
Minnie Himmelstein
Dr. Sidney Schatz

February 12
Bessie Klein

February 13
Julian Braiman
Frank Sherman
Fanny Simon Passer

February 14
Werner Schaffer

February 17
Minnie Blumkin
Shirley Shapiro

February 21
Lillian Abelson
Sara Brodsky
Norman Klein
Harry Roxin

February 23
Sonya Newman

February 26
Faye Goldin

*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!

Checks payable to: **Temple Beth David, 2131 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 204, Rochester, NY 14618**

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- ☐ Get Well Wishes _____
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☐ Congratulations on _____

- ☐ In Memory of _____
☐ In Honor of _____
☐ In Appreciation of _____

Note: _____

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☐ Rabbi Discretionary Fund
☐ Mitzvah Kiddush Donation

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



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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