



Here's something you might already know: one of the blessings contained in the *Amidah* prayer, which is recited three times a day, praises God as follows:

"Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives life to the dead."

To tell the truth, the concept in Judaism of life after death is really not all that clear cut. Different Jewish philosophers have proposed different notions on this topic and particularly in the middle ages, they actually began to caution us to steer away from getting our hopes up about any kind of physical return. Taking what some saw as a more realistic path, they suggested we should understand this prayer as an acknowledgement that God, who is omnipotent, *takes care* of those who are no longer with us.

Needless to say, both the very idea of God giving life to the dead as well as the uncertainty about what this could possibly mean, have often caused many Jews more disquiet than brought them comfort. In its early days,

the Reform movement officially rejected the idea; the decision was made to change the wording of that prayer in Reform *siddurim* (prayerbooks), to: "...who gives life to all." It is only in recent years as the movement has reevaluated its relationship with Jewish tradition that the option of revival of the dead has been put back on the table as the most recent Reform *siddur*, *Mishkan T'filah*, now offers the traditional text of this blessing in parenthesis alongside their historic rewording, or revisioning.

Now, here's something you might not already know: the Talmud (Berachot 58b) teaches us that one who sees a dear friend or relative for the first time in a month or more should recite the "*Shehechianu*" blessing; however, one who sees a dear friend or relative for the first time in a *year* or more should recite the blessing in praise of God "who gives life to the dead."

Fascinating, isn't it? We are taught that absence and loss are all relative: while a person might be alive and well, our tradition teaches us that when we are apart for as long as a year, it might even begin to feel that we have lost them forever. It's amazing just how in tune our ancient rabbis were with fundamental human emotions and attachment. Of course, in those days long distance travel was so much more difficult and even treacherous than it is today, and there was so much more risk back then when setting out on a journey, that one might never return.

Modern transport has allowed us to take a lot

*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.



Hello Fellow  
Congregants and  
Friends of TBD!

Although very difficult  
times continue, I am  
feeling a lot of posi-  
tive energy within the  
TBD community as  
we connect with and  
care for others. We  
are gathering on

Shabbat and we've received delicious food  
during the Winter Kiddush delivery and won-  
derful mishloach manot. Coming right up will  
be *Purimania* on Sunday February 28.

I would like to share my appreciation to all  
who are joining in our events, participating  
on the board, and stepping up to fill our  
volunteer needs. I look forward to meeting  
or perhaps getting reacquainted with all of  
you. Look for details to "Zoom with Sue" - a  
regular open Zoom time to share ideas and  
ask questions and just chat a bit.

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about  
Shabbat. I have reflected on Shabbat as  
sacred time - one important concept I learned  
early in my Jewish studies. I learned that we  
sanctify our time by putting aside our daily  
occupations and designating Shabbat and  
holy days as sacred. We reconnect with the  
spiritual after a week of laboring in the physi-  
cal world. We remember that life is not just  
about achieving and working, but about being  
in the moment and taking time to connect  
with others. I invite you each to think about  
what Shabbat is for you in your life, your  
home, and with our Beth David communi-  
ty. One very famous quote says it all, "More  
than Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has  
kept the Jews." Ahad Ha'am (Asher Gins-  
berg, poet, philosopher, 1856-1927)

In closing, as I did the last time I wrote to you,

I'd like to share an experience I had recently.

I stumbled upon this video *Three Comedians  
and a Rabbi Log Onto Zoom* from OneTable  
([onetable.org](https://onetable.org)). It stars the comedic voices of  
Jackie Tohn, Ben Gleib, and Alex Edelman,  
alongside Rabbi Sharon Brous. ([https://  
youtu.be/SlsxNoKieog](https://youtu.be/SlsxNoKieog))

In the video Rabbi Brous tells this story about  
Elijah...

"Elijah is strolling through a market and sees  
two jesters in the square go up to a group of  
people arguing. They start to interrupt with  
jokes and cheers - and all of a sudden the  
tension breaks. That work - using humor and  
joy to make peace - is how we can start to  
repair the world. Shabbat is our pause, our  
moment in the market square - 25 hours to  
welcome light and levity even, and especially,  
when the world gives us weight."

Here is some information about OneTable...  
"Based in Jewish tradition, Shabbat - and  
its teaching that spending meaningful time  
connecting with friends and family - is for  
everyone. Much like yoga or meditation,  
Shabbat is an act of peaceful rebellion  
against a constantly moving world. When  
this isolating global pandemic took hold,  
OneTable was looking for a way to keep the  
magic of Friday night Shabbat going when  
every day feels the same. #takeaPAUSE  
with OneTable on the first Friday of every  
month as creators mix ritual with innovation,  
asking and answering the questions: What  
do we do with the things we inherit? What  
can we gain from taking a PAUSE? How  
might we imagine the world not as it is, but  
as it could be? Want to dive deeper into  
Shabbat? Head to [onetable.org](https://onetable.org)."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Sue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

# All in the Family

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## March Birthdays

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

## Anniversaries

Phillip and Susan Lederer	March 3
Neal and Sue Eckhaus	April 6
Marc Lande and Linda Servetnick	April 30

## 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
Hanna Kielar	April 27
Judith Levy	April 29

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*continued from page 1*

for granted; I think even of the difference between my grandparents who left Lithuania never to go back or even to see their parents again, and myself, who had the wonderful fortune to see my father once or twice a year, EVERY year, after I came to live in the US, never mind the expectation of weekly phone calls, a luxury my grandparents certainly never had. And yet, when there is great distance between us and our loved ones, it stings, and then when we are reunited it can feel like we've been given a miracle, that indeed a part of us has been brought back to life.

So why do I bring this up?

Because it's going on a full year since we've seen many of our dear friends and loved ones. In recent weeks since we've begun offering modified Shabbat services on-line, it has brought great joy to behold the pixels of each other's faces and to hear voices bring Torah to life which we've not heard in almost a complete journey around the sun. When this happens, my heart feels warm and the corners of my mouth turn upwards; it feels like I've been given a miraculous gift of once again being in the company of my people and I begin to think to myself: "Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives life to the dead."

Above all, I am grateful that we are alive and most of us are well. But, if you've not yet had the opportunity to join us on-line on a Shabbat morning, please accept this invitation to do so, so that you too can be part of this miracle for us, and I hope that seeing us will feel like a miracle for you too.

*Bivrachah* – with blessings,

Michael

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Received December 16, 2020 - February 15, 2021

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Marc Lande & Linda Servetnick  
Ronald Lessner  
Sherrill Pogal  
Howard & Amy Ressel  
Neal Rogachefsky  
Daniel & Risa Saltzman  
Warren & Sue Simon

#### **Marvin & Marcia Davis**

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#### **David Eckhaus**

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#### **Fanny Simon Passer**

Sandra Cohen

#### **Nancy Grube**

Neal & Sue Eckhaus

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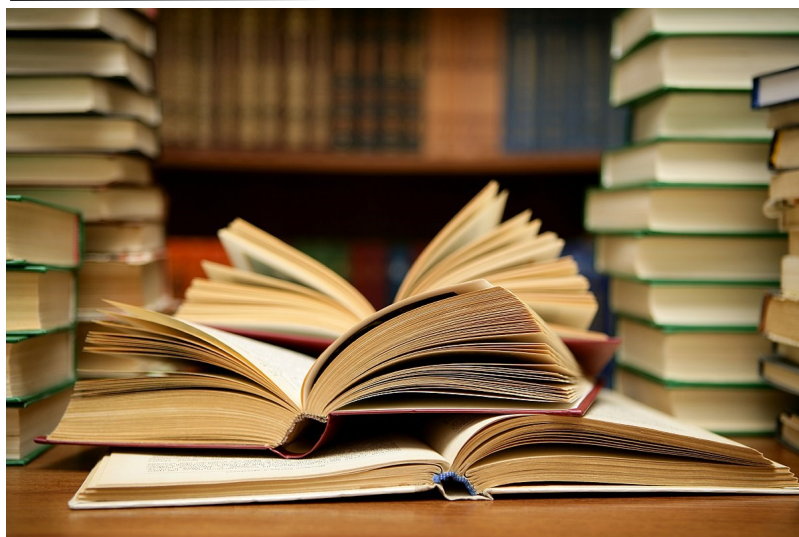
### ***LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES***

#### **Lisa Fogel & Steven Fishman**



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## **Jewish Short Stories Discussion Group**

Kick off event

**Monday March 22  
7pm-8pm**

**Details including titles and  
ZOOM information to follow  
in weekly newsletter**





## Torah Study

With our renewed Saturday Shabbat services, we are taking an opportunity to expand our Torah Study offerings. During the Saturday time, from 9:00 to 9:50 AM, we will continue our mystical journey through the Torah, following a commentary by Rabbi Larry Tabick.

We'll also use our Thursday evening time, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM, to look at the same Torah verses, from the Oral Torah's perspective – the Mishnah and Talmud text, which has a legal and halachic focus. We'll primarily use a compilation of the Talmud, called Ein Yaakov, which gathered the

aggadic sections of the Talmud – those parts that are primarily story-telling. But in some cases, where there are not complementary pieces from Ein Yaakov, or the halachic texts are very significant, and we'll look at those sections instead. We'll always start from a Torah verse in the weekly parashah, and deepen our understanding by exploring how rabbinic sages and mystics understood or were affected by those verses.

For more news and information  
visit our website at  
[www.tbdrochester.org](http://www.tbdrochester.org)



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event information, articles, and  
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[office@tbdrochester.com](mailto:office@tbdrochester.com).



Information about  
*Passover*  
will follow shortly.  
Please see upcoming  
editions of our weekly  
Newsletter for details



# Yahrzeits

			Date Observed
<b>March 1</b> Max Palagyi	<b>March 15</b> Esther Stein	<b>April 4</b> Ruth Drexler	<b>April 19</b> Harry Gordon Solomon Sherman
<b>March 2</b> Gertrude Brotsky Jacob Haymoff Morris Herman Samuel Markus	<b>March 16</b> Herman H. Levine Florence Sanow Rappaport	<b>April 5</b> Eli Caplin Sylvia Gertzog	<b>April 20</b> Rose Feinberg Beatrice Vine
<b>March 3</b> Dorothy Bernberg Annette Harris Albert Marcusfield Jacob Schwartz	<b>March 20</b> Barbara Berger	<b>April 6</b> Milton Kerker Leonard Lutzky	<b>April 21</b> Raymond Kinel
<b>March 6</b> Helen Langmann Abraham Rothberg Anna Weinstein	<b>March 21</b> Minetta Klein	<b>April 7</b> Nancy Grube	<b>April 22</b> Samuel Greenberg Bernard Servetnick
<b>March 7</b> Louis Klein	<b>March 24</b> Richard Braiman Sadie Leitman	<b>April 8</b> Anita Bauman	<b>April 23</b> Jack Stephen Spitulnik Meyer Weinstein
<b>March 8</b> Jacob Goldman	<b>March 25</b> Katherine Gan Ruth Haymoff Comisar Lester Rappaport	<b>April 9</b> Harry Abelson Marvin Foigelman Sylvia Vicker	<b>April 24</b> Rywka Kinel
<b>March 10</b> Mollie Roth Jewell Rothstein	<b>March 27</b> Sylvia Kowal	<b>April 10</b> Obbe Abelson Penelope Nelson Sally Zeif	<b>April 26</b> Sarah Markus Jonathan Rich
<b>March 11</b> Harry Cohen Molly Cohen Sophie Isaacson	<b>March 28</b> Rita Schnidman	<b>April 11</b> Belle Schwartz	<b>April 28</b> Kathryn Schwartz
<b>March 12</b> Harry Herman Stephen Sigelow	<b>March 30</b> Blanche Gordon Regina Schott	<b>April 12</b> Sidney Gallant	<b>April 29</b> Nadine Lande
<b>March 13</b> Betty Segelin	<b>April 29</b> Charles Jaffey	<b>April 13</b> Molly Baker	<b>April 30</b> Jacob Kinel Max Stark
<b>March 14</b> Samuel Katzman	<b>April 30</b> Lillian Schneider	<b>April 15</b> Barbara Phillips	<i>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.</i>
	<b>April 1</b> Allen Greenberg Harvey Louis Priceman Harold Rosenbaum	<b>April 16</b> Blanche Diamond	
	<b>April 3</b> Benjamin Ritter	<b>April 17</b> Gerald Norry Herbert Rosenstein	

## SEND A CARD TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE!

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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.

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☐ Mitzvah Kiddush Donation

- ☐ Rabbi Discretionary Fund  
☐ Rabbi Skopitz Fund  
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☐ Torah Repair Fund



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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