

# Bulletin

Volume 67 Issue 3

May - June 2020

## From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

rabbi@tbdrochester.org



Did you know that Judaism has a prayer to be recited after one goes to the bathroom to relieve oneself? It goes like this:

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Who formed human beings with wisdom and created within them many openings and cavities. It is revealed and known before the throne of Your glory that if even one of them would be ruptured or blocked, it would be impossible to survive and to stand before You. Blessed are You, Adonai, Healer of all flesh who does wondrous deeds.<sup>1</sup>

This prayer evokes a sense of wonder in me: everyone goes to the toilet numerous times a day. For most of us it happens so frequently that we don't even think about it. Yet this prayer specifically says to us: "Think about it."

I love that the intentionality built into Jewish life and practice wants us to stop for a moment and contemplate on the way out of the bathroom: "Wow. Imagine if I couldn't do what I just did in there? Imagine if one of my organs didn't do what it's supposed to? How would I survive?"

I believe in living gratefully – grateful for everything from my family to my friends to my job to my home to the food on my plate to my body; yes, that my body is able to function as it does, clinging daily, hourly, to life.

We are living in a time of pandemic where the behavior of almost every one of the 7+ billion

people on the planet has been transformed by fear, so much so that Jews are all spending Pesach home alone! We're afraid that the next cough or skipped beat might reveal that we've got it, that we are the latest statistic. I don't *think* I'm neurotic (though who am I to say?), but this week I noticed myself coughing a few times more frequently than usual, my throat more ticklish than usual. The more I noticed, the greater my panic escalated. I considered my preexisting health conditions and then I thought of all those blessings that I stand to lose, and indeed, I felt truly sick. How long would I have?

Eventually, in a moment when the kids weren't around, I told Rachel about my symptoms, and she said: "Yes of course. It's early April, which means spring, which means allergies."

Allergies? Allergies! Oh, how much I love you, my sweet allergies! In an instant my blessings came rushing back to me, all the things I would be able to hold onto at least a little while longer: my family, my friends, my job... and even my body which seems to have at least a few more miles left in it.

All these miracles of daily life are so easy to forget until we lose them. But our tradition has planned for that too. It offers us these lyrics to attach to the soundtrack of our lives each day upon waking:

Modeh/ah Ani – מודה אני thank you, living and eternal Sovereign, creator of life, for giving my soul back to me this morning in mercy. Great is your faithfulness to me.

(Continued on page 2)

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 to my dear temple members,

We are all experiencing an unprecedented event. Gathering together at times of distress to offer caring and comfort to each other has been our usual way of acting. During this coronavirus pandemic, we are not able even to gather with our families. If you are like me, you are finding our new life of sheltering to be a tremendous adjustment. I share my concern for all of you who are learning to live your lives under such completely changed circumstances.

I have had a number of telephone conversations as our congregation reaches out to its fellow members during this difficult time. Thanks so much to Linda Servetnick and Rebecca Weber for setting up a communication system that helps to keep us in touch. Outside of that system, I would like to urge all of you to give a call to at least one fellow congregant. If you have been wondering how certain people are getting along, your reaching out to those people might make a tremendous difference to them. Simply thinking of another is one thing, but actually letting a person know that you care enough to call is another. When people are feeling isolated, your effort can make a big difference.

Keeping our congregation connected is in your hands. Our current circumstances are a challenge and part of that challenge is adopting new behaviors; we all need to stretch beyond our comfort zones to be a community that continues to show kindness and caring to each other in unaccustomed ways. Please be a person who takes it upon yourself to connect with your fellow congregants.

Best wishes to my temple family,

#### Maxine

Continued from page 1

Thank you for giving my heart understanding to distinguish day from night.

Thank you for making me in the divine image.

Thank you for letting all my openings and cavities work as they're supposed to.

Thank you for making me free.

We never know what the future holds. But right now while it might feel like we have so much that we are afraid of losing, we have the opportunity to feel gratitude. May you and your loved ones be blessed with many, many new dawns – more than you can count. In the meantime though, I invite you to join me in saying "Thank You" each day that you wake to see new light. Gratitude – and sensible precautions – are how we're going to get through this.

BaShanah haBa'ah beYachad - בשנה הבאה ביחד - Next year may we all be together,

<sup>1</sup> Our tradition teaches that this prayer, commonly known as Asher Yatzar , ואשר יצר to be recited after one leaves the bathroom, as the practice is to never utter God's name in a place where filth is typically exposed.

# All in the Family

May Birthdays		June Birthdays	
Alice Nussbaum	May 2	Bonnie Abrams	June 1
Kevin Fleissig	May 4	Barbara Grosh	June 1
Rachel Kest	May 5	Risa Saltzman	June 1
Vivien Rothberg	May 13	Rheva Kleinberg	June 2
Karen Schaffer	May 14	Sue Eckhaus	June 6
Sue Lederer	May 20	Lisa Keeley	June 8
Judy Wolbert	May 21	Nancy Kraus	June 10
Elena Davis	May 24	Ruth Aranov	June 11
Maxine Newman	May 24	Judy Fleissig	June 16
Ron Kraus	May 25	Juliet Lande	June 16
Beverly Zwick	May 25	Joanne Katzman	June 22
Burt Segelin	May 26	Olivia Meynadasy	June 26
Sandra Cohen	May 28	Mira Phillips	June 30
Shelby Nelson	May 29		
May Anniversaries		June Anniversaries	
Thomas & Judy Wolbert	May 24	Myron & Rheva Kleinberg	June 7
Stanley & Elaine Schaffer	May 26	Mike & Toby Berke	June 13
Michael & Laurie Peres	May 29	Steven Meyers & Barbara Weber	June 14
Richard & Joyce Towber	May 30	Ron & Jean Brandwein	June 18
Ron & Nancy Kraus	May 31	Ed & Sue Drexler	June 18
David & Susan Langmann	May 31	Dan & Alice Nussbaum	June 20
Burt & Marilyn Segelin	May 31	Paul & Judy Eissenstat	June 25

Thank you to Scott and Merrie Franklin, Cindy Halpern and Maxine Manjos for sponsoring the cholent.



# **Shavuot Services**

**Erev Shavuot** Thursday, May 28 6:00 PM Dinner/7:30 Service at Temple Beth Am

**Shavuot Day 1 Friday, May 29** 9:00 AM Service at <u>TBD</u>

**Erev Shavuot Day 2 Friday, May 29** 6:30 PM Service and Yizkor at <u>Temple Beth Am</u>

**Shavuot Day 2 Saturday, May 30** 9:00 AM Service and Yizkor at BHBI

## **Donations**

Received February 16, 2020 - April 15, 2020

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# **Books & Brunch**

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

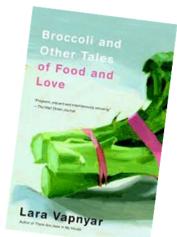
Sunday, June 7 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**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

Open to the community!







First Seder Camp Humphries Korea 2020

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Thank you for all the donations! Chag Sameach, Keith

#### From the home of Lisa Klein...

Although these cookies are not elegant, they taste mighty good! They are coffee meringue kisses that my mother baked, just for me, every Pesach. The best ingredient was the love. This is my first attempt and I know that my mother, gone for many years, was with me to add the love.



**Passover Coffee Kisses** 

2 egg whites

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup walnuts or almonds, finely chopped

1 tablespoon of instant coffee

Heat oven to 300\*. Beat the egg whites until they form soft peaks. Slowly beat in sugar and continue beating until mixture is stiff. Fold in nuts and coffee by hand. Drop by teaspoonful onto parchment paper on cookie sheet. The mixture is sticky so you will need to use fingers to get mixture off of spoon. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove from oven and let sit for 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet. These cookies are best eaten after a few hours so that the meringue has time to harden. Enjoy!

Yahrzeits			Date Observed
May 1	May 14	June 2	
Harry Gordon	Solomon Berke	Harris Markus	June 15
Samuel Newman		Ben Smith	Joseph Blumkin
Solomon Sherman	May 15		·
	Irwin Applebaum	June 4	June 17
May 2		Al Rosen	Eugene Brandwein
Rose Feinberg	May 17	Annette Straussman	
Beatrice Vine	Phillip Keirn		June 18
		June 5	Hyman Freedman
May 3	May 19	Arlen Brodsky	
Raymond Kinel	Betty Herman		June 19
		June 7	Burton Lurie
May 4	May 21	Joseph M. Haymoff	Philip Lurie
Samuel Greenberg	Harry Eissenstat		
Bernard Servetnick		June 8	June 20
	May 22	Sara Rousso	Edith Krovetz Jaffey
May 5	David Bauman		lda Markus
Michael Rosen		June 9	
Jack Stephen Spitulnik	May 25	Harold Baker	June 21
Meyer Weinstein	Mollie Markus	Louis Schatz	Marcus Phillips
			Jean Rosen
May 6	May 26	June 10	
Rywka Kinel	Milton Stoler	Nellie Eissenstat	June 23
			Hyman Cherkasky
May 8	May 28	June 11	Helene Davis Penzik
Sarah Markus	Anne Hoffman	Lois Markus	
Jonathan Rich	Jack Weber	Thelma Messinger	June 24
			Celia Lurie
May 10	May 30	June 12	
Merrill Cohen	Doris Cherkasky	Estelle Frieder Berke	June 25
Kathryn Schwartz	Rachel Gross	Janet Steinfeld-Feldman	Aaron Kinel
	Solomon Kashtan		
May 11	Leo Langmann	June 13	June 27
Nadine Lande		Eunice Freedman	Morris Segelin
	May 31		
May 12	Calvin Rosenbaum	June 14	June 28
Jacob Kinel	Sylvia Roth	Esther (Erna) Przewuzman	Emil Schott
Max Stark		Ida Rosenbaum	
			June 29
May 13	The yahrzeit date that	appears above is the date of	Elva Wesler
Bruce Newman	-	g the secular calendar.	

observance using the secular calendar.

These dates match those of the Hebrew calendar



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June 30

Beverly (Stark) Schaffer

Lillian Pies

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## 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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