

From Rabbi Michael Silbert

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There are religious developments currently unfolding around us that demand our attention, and they masquerade behind the guise of abortion rights.

So let's begin with abortion. Does Jewish law permit abortion? Yes? No? The answer is a definite "it depends" – on who you ask.

If one were to ask the question in the *Haredi* corner of the Jewish world, the answer for the most part is "No." Mainstream Orthodoxy is somewhat divided over the issue with the Israeli Chief Rabbinate seeing it as a "lesser degree of murder", but that's not where the discussion ends. There also are numerous nuanced Orthodox opinions about its permissibility in cases where there are complicating circumstances, such as risk of health to the mother, anticipated birth defects, illegitimacy of conception (e.g. rape and incest) and numerous other compassionate considerations. Therefore, while some Orthodox leaders have aligned themselves with their counterparts among the Christian right-wing on this and other issues, the Orthodox Union (OU) said in a recent statement:

"Jewish law prioritizes the life of the pregnant mother over the life of the fetus such that where the pregnancy critically endangers the physical health or mental health of the mother, an abortion may be authorized, if not mandated, by *halacha* and should be available to all women irrespective of their economic status... Legislation and court rulings — federally or in any state — that absolutely ban abortion without regard for the health of the mother would literally limit our ability to live our lives in accordance with our responsibility to preserve life."

There's a lot to unpack in this excerpt. While the OU does not frame their conditional support of abortion in the language of "women's choice", there are some very important issues here which – I believe – should speak to all American Jews:

1. In the opinion of most American rabbis (i.e. many mainstream Orthodox as well as most non-Orthodox), Jewish law permits abortion in certain circumstances.
2. Not only does it *permit* it, but it *mandates* it.
3. Implied is that the understanding that life begins at conception, is informed by Christian theology. It's not Jewish and it certainly is not universal.
4. An absolute ban on abortion would make it impossible for



Jewish women to comply with Jewish legal opinion.

5. Aside from Jewish women, others who seek abortion for the same reasons that Jewish law considers valid, would be prohibited from pursuing this course of action.

I have many concerns about the (anticipated) revocation of *Roe vs. Wade*. But larger than the issue of women's rights

is my dread of the role that conservative, right-wing Christian doctrine is being awarded, which undermines our democracy in a country that apparently does not have an official religion.

It's a terrifyingly slippery slope, which should lead all of us who are being coerced under the authority of a particular brand of Christian belief, to ask: What's next? Employer health insurance no longer being required to cover prescription contraception? Check. (Actually, that decision by the SCOTUS *precedes* the abortion ban redux, thanks to Hobby Lobby's activism.) A ban on the sale of over-the-counter birth control? Texas is already mobilizing on this one.

And then? How long before religiously motivated objections are raised to rights like circumcision or *shechitah* (kosher slaughtering), as has happened in some European countries? This may sound extreme, but I hardly need to remind you that when Jewish fates have depended on the mercy of conservative churches, it has not been a pretty picture. This is precisely why America has for the most part been such an exceptional haven for us. Our success here has depended on the democratic and areligious nature of this country. It is largely because we have enjoyed the freedom to live according to our religious convictions and have enjoyed the "ability to live our lives in accordance with our (religious) responsibility" (Orthodox Union) that everything else has fallen into place to make our life as Jews in America so successful.

The Orthodox Union has illustrated for us how this has already begun to change. Abortion, voting rights – you name it – are but the writing on the wall for what is yet to come.

We need to live with eyes wide open and be willing to be vocal and active in the preservation of American democracy, for in addition to abortion, that is what is at stake.

Michael

All in the Family

June Birthdays

Barbara Grosh	June 1
Risa Saltzman	June 1
Teresa Kielar	June 2
Rheva Kleinberg	June 2
Sue Eckhaus	June 6
Nancy Kraus	June 10
Judy Fleissig	June 16
Juliet Lande	June 16
Joanne Katzman	June 22
Keith Freedman	June 23
Olivia Meynadasy	June 26

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Ed & Sue

June Anniversaries

Myron & Rheva Kleinberg	June 7
Michael & Beverly Zwick	June 10
Michael & Toby Berke	June 13
Steven Meyers & Barbara Weber	June 14
Ronald & Jean Brandwein	June 18
Edward & Susan Drexler	June 18
Daniel & Alice Nussbaum	June 20



The next **Temple Beth David Board of Trustee Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, **June 14 at 7:00** pm via Zoom. All temple members are invited to attend or you may submit your questions or concerns in advance of the meeting for consideration by the board of trustees. Board member names are listed on the last page of this bulletin. For more information on how to attend the meeting, please contact the temple office at 585-266-3223 or office@tbdrochester.org.

Take Home Treats

If you would like to help with take home treats distributed after Shabbat service each week or wish to sponsor "Take Home Treats" in honor of a good news event, please contact the temple office or speak with Alison Helms (her contact information is listed in the temple directory).

Shabbat Service will be held in the Temple Beth El Chapel on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 am



Riverside Cemetery Plots

are available to purchase from

Temple Beth David

at reduced temple member rates for Jewish burials in adherence to Temple Beth David ritual requirements. For questions regarding purchase, contact the temple office. For questions pertaining to Jewish burial ritual requirements, contact Rabbi Silbert.



Vivian Rothberg is graduating from The Harley School in June of 2022, and planning to attend Brandeis University in the fall. A cross-country and track athlete all four years, Vivian's academic interests include Math, Latin, and English. Outside of school, she loves to play piano, walk barefoot in streams, and doodle. Since Vivian has been a member of TBD her whole life, we include a younger photo as well as a current one.



Aaron Freedman will graduate from Ohio State University in December with a BS in Environmental Science with a specialization in Ecosystem Restoration. He plans to get a job in his field in the Columbus area.

Congratulations! ***Class of 2022***



Elena Davis is graduating from Fredonia University with a BA in Music Therapy. Elena will be pursuing a masters in Music Therapy and is looking forward to working with elders with dementia/Alzheimers.

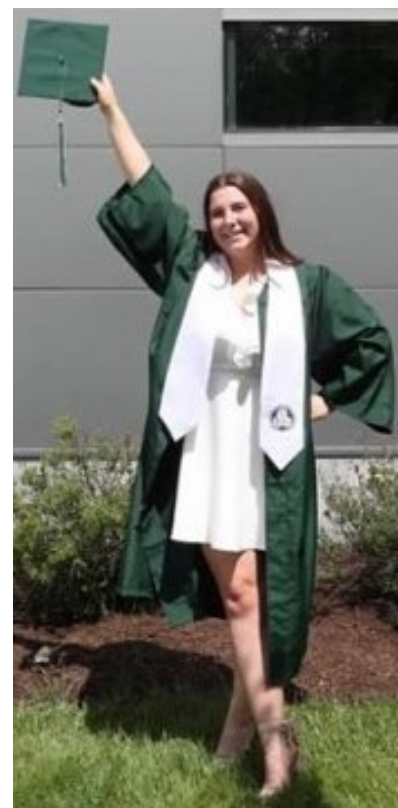


Sid's twin granddaughters **Vanessa** (left) and **Elena Robustelli**, graduated from Franklin and Marshall college in May of 2021. They now live and work in NYC.

Mira Phillips has spent the last 4 years earning a BS in Finance from Binghamton University. In July she will start a job in Debt Capital Markets at Royal Bank of Canada in Manhattan. Mira's flexibility, warm heartedness, and initiative will serve her well in her new endeavors.



Two of Sid's grandchildren will be graduating this year. **Peninah Markus Hodin** will graduate from the University of Vermont on May 22. Her brother, **Saul Eber Hodin** will graduate from Boston Latin High School on June 13. He will attend Boston University in the fall. Peninah also attended Boston Latin HS. They are pictured here with their family dog, Jasper.



Donations Received April 16 - May 15, 2022

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June Yahrzeits

June 1 Mollie Markus	June 18 Lois Markus Thelma Messinger
June 2 Milton Stoler*	June 19 Estelle Frieder Berke Janet Steinfeld-Feldman
June 4 Anne Hoffman Jack Weber	June 20 Eunice Freedman*
June 6 Harry Ambush* Doris Cherkasky Rachel Gross Solomon Kashtan Leo Langmann	June 21 Esther (Ema) Przewuzman* Ida Rosenbaum
June 7 Calvin Rosenbaum* Sylvia Roth	June 22 Joseph Blumkin*
June 9 Harris Markus* Ben Smith	June 24 Eugene Brandwein
June 11 Annette Straussman	June 25 Hyman Freedman
June 12 Arlen Brodsky	June 26 Burton Lurie Philip Lurie
June 14 Joseph M. Haymoff	June 27 Edith Krovetz Jaffey Ida Markus
June 15 Sara Rousso	June 28 Marcus Phillips
June 16 Harold Baker*	June 30 Hyman Cherkasky Helene Davis Penzik*
June 17 Nellie Eissenstat	

**Memorial plaque on display in the
 Temple Beth David sanctuary.*

*The yahrzeit date that appears above is the date of ob-
 servance using the secular calendar. These dates match
 those of the Hebrew calendar for the actual date of death.*



Donate online at
www.tbdrochester.org

Temple Beth David and Temple Beth El Present



5th Annual Joint Golf Outing *@ Mendon Golf Club (Mendon, NY)* *Monday, July 25th, 2022*

in memory of Jay Cohen and to benefit TBD and TBE Education Funds

Golf, Breakfast, and Hors d'Oeuvres
\$136.00 earlybird before 6/1
\$150.00 after 6/1

8:30am	Registration, breakfast, team pictures
10:00am	Shotgun tee start
4:00pm	Hors d'oeuvres @ Mendon Golf Club

Register for golf/sponsorship online @ <https://www.tberochester.org/> or complete form on back

SPONSOR OPTIONS

Sponsor signs will be placed on the golf course and displayed at the hors d'oeuvres

Sponsor Name:
Wording for Sign:
(submit by 6/25; if no wording for the sign is written, we will use the Sponsor Name)
Sponsor Address:
Sponsor Phone:
Sponsor Email Address (needed for graphic):
Sponsor Web Address:

***** ALL SPONSORS GET MENTIONED IN OUR EVENT BOOKLET (which is handed out to all attendees) AND ONLINE WEBPAGES*****

() Platinum Hole Sponsor	Includes golf for four (4) people	\$1000.00
() Gold Hole Sponsor	Includes golf for two (2) people	\$700.00
() Silver Hole Sponsor	Includes golf for one (1) person	\$400.00
() Bronze Hole Sponsor	Includes hors d'oeuvres for one (1) person	\$200.00
() Breakfast Sponsor	Includes breakfast for one (1) person	\$125.00
() Hors d'oeuvres Sponsor	Includes hors d'oeuvres for one (1) person	\$125.00
() Golf, breakfast & hors d'oeuvres	Earlybird: \$136.00/ After June 1: \$150.00	
() Hors d'oeuvres only		\$40.00

REGISTRATION FORM FOR GOLF AND/OR SPONSORS

			Golf \$136 (before 6/1) \$150 (after 6/1) <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> Hors D'oeuvres only \$40	Hole Sponsor Platinum/Gold Silver/Bronze Meal Sponsor (see above for prices)
Name	Phone	Email		
			\$	\$
TOTAL				

Affiliation: ☐ TBD ☐ TBE ☐ Both ☐ Unaffiliated

Please make checks payable to **Temple Beth El** with "Golf Outing"
on the memo line and mail to:

Temple Beth El
139 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14610
Attn: Golf Outing

Registration forms must be in by Friday, July 15th, 2022

If you have any questions please call:

TBD: Phil Katzman (585) 473-3834 or email philip_katzman@urmc.rochester.edu

TBE: Evan Spindelman (585) 415-1245 or email evans@lombardcecil.com

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

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Note: _____

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

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☐ Marsh Fishman Youth Education Fund
☐ Mitzvah Kiddush Donation

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



It's so easy to make donations and dues payments online! Visit our donation page at www.tbdrochester.org/donate. The minimum online donation is \$10.



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You may be missing the latest news about Temple Beth David services and events, as well as other important community information. Call or email the Temple Office to add your name to the mailing list!

Please call the office if you or a family member is scheduled for surgery or is admitted to the hospital. We want to offer comfort to congregants who are ill but regulations do not permit the hospital to contact us with your news. We will only know if you let us know.



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