

When I was a kid, I used to find sitting in synagogue excruciating. I didn't have much say in the matter as my parents expected me to attend and once I was there, I wasn't allowed to hang around outside with the other kids. Oh no - I had to be *inside*. My father would try to sweeten the deal by bribing me with candy - though not on Yom Kippur - and this was a fairly successful distraction, at least until I'd finished them all and had to return to confronting just how boring our liturgy could be!

Back in those days, sitting in services was about as engaging for me as listening to someone read the phone book for a few hours on end.

One year my older brother whispered in my ear: "Hey! Look at this!", as he pointed out the "*Unetaneh Tokef*" prayer in the *machzor* (the High Holy Day prayer book), his finger closing in on the line: "*On Rosh HaShanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed... who will live and who will die...*"

This absolutely freaked me out! In an instant, the Jewish High Holy Days were transformed from a benign but boring New Year celebration into an apocalyptic nightmare, with visions of God about to smite us all at any given moment. Ten days later as Kol Nidre night approached, the anxiety had taken such a hold of me that I couldn't even bring myself to eat dinner before the fast. Zero-hour was nigh!

Thank goodness I outgrew that stage. Firstly, because not eating before a fast can make the next 24 hours even more arduous. And secondly, because Jewish liturgy, much like Torah, lends itself to being understood and interpreted



at numerous levels of depth, to the extent we that actually take it literally at our own peril.

I get the feeling that my youthful misapprehension of the High Holy Days as this "live or die, survive or suffer" moment is something that many of us hold onto way into adulthood

and even throughout our entire lives. It is something that I suspect makes many Jews reluctant to attend services or to even participate in Jewish religious life at all. The flip side of this is would be a compulsion to attend, "just in case" - as a type of insurance policy in case it's true.

Truth is, I simply no longer believe that aspect of Jewish tradition which historically has been imposed upon us by a single *piyut* (Jewish liturgical poem), composed in 11<sup>th</sup> century Germany. And I'm not alone: Sephardic Jews don't even include it in their worship! If anything, it's a footnote - an optional extra - that sleeps quietly at the back of their book, if it's even there at all. In other words, an entire philosophy or theology which has made so many of us Ashkenazi Jews so uncomfortable for so long, doesn't even feature in the High Holy Day thoughts of half the Jews in the world!

Instead, emphasis is placed where it belongs: on our *spiritual* survival and success, on seeking to strengthen our personal relationship with God for another year and on emphasizing the hope that the New Year will bring us an even greater sense of connection to our Creator.

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Received August 16 - September 15, 2022

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## **IN HONOR OF 20TH WEDDING** **ANNIVERSARY**

**Paul & Mary Gatley**  
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## **IN SUPPORT** **Karen Schaffer**

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And regarding my childhood boredom with the service, which many of us also carry deep into adulthood, here's a suggestion my father used to make to me: bring something to read. Seriously. If you typically have a hard time staying in services, then bring a meaningful Jewish book along and use that as a vehicle to connect with your people and with questions about what it means to be a Jew.

For years I've been following a leading American Jewish thinker on Facebook, who at this time of the year asks his friends: "So what will you be reading in shul this year?" I find it both amusing and extremely informative to see the responses from Jewish academics and communal leaders, Conservative, Orthodox and Reform, which give insight into the latest titles and ideas taking root in Jewish life and learning.

It turns out that my father was really onto something.

The bottom line is: now that we need no longer be as fearful of COVID, let's neither allow our fear of some of the scary themes of this season get in the way of us showing up. Let them go. Come join us, seeking joy and something meaningful to LIVE by.

And afraid you might be bored? Then bring a book. Seriously.

G'mar Tov – May the growthful opportunities of this season have a meaningful impact on you,

*Michael*

# All in the Family

## October Birthdays

Maxine Manjos	October 2
Daniel Saltzman	October 3
Howard Brill	October 7
Carol Schott	October 7
Stanley Gross	October 11
Ronald Schott	October 20

## October Anniversaries

Scott & Lori Davis	October 16
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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Temple Beth David**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 13**  
**10:00 am**



The next **Temple Beth David Board of Trustee Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, **October 13 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.



**Shabbat Service will be held in the Temple Beth El Chapel on Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 am**

## 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).

## 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.







Beautiful memories of the  
**First Annual Temple Beth David  
 Summer Picnic.** Love and  
 thanks to all who gave their time  
 and attention to make this day so  
 special, and deep gratitude to  
**Carol Schott** and **Alison Helms**  
 who made it all possible.



All photography  
 is courtesy of  
**Rabbi Michael Silbert**







Contact **Carol Schott** to ask how you can help make next year's event just as wonderful.





# Yom Kippur

**Erev Yom Kippur**  
at Temple Sinai  
Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm  
Kol Nidre and Ma'ariv  
(Building open at 6:00 pm)  
6:28 pm Candle Lighting

**Yom Kippur**  
at Temple Sinai  
Wednesday, October 5 at 8:30 am  
Approx. 11:15 am Yizkor  
4:15 pm Mincha and Neilah  
7:27 pm Ma'ariv and Havdalah  
Holiday Ends 7:45

No Break the fast at Temple Sinai this year

## Sukkot

DATE	FESTIVAL	HOST	TIME
Sunday Oct. 9	Erev Sukkot	BHBI	6:30 PM
Monday Oct. 10	Sukkot – Day 1	BHBI	9:30 PM
Tuesday Oct. 11	Sukkot – Day 2	TBD	9:30 AM
Sunday Oct. 16	Erev Shmini Atzeret (Yizkor)	TBA	7:00 PM
Monday Oct. 17	Shmini Atzeret (Yizkor)	BHBI	9:30 AM
	Erev Simchat Torah	TBD	7:00 PM
Tuesday Oct. 18	Simchat Torah	TBD	9:30 AM



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

## October Yahrzeits

**October 1**  
Joseph Klein\*

**October 3**  
Ruth Brandwein  
Anna Fishman\*  
Eleanor Miller  
Chana Neuberg  
Meyer Neuberg

**October 5**  
Paul Halpern  
Harry Zoghlin\*

**October 6**  
Mildred Feinberg

**September 7**  
Anna C. Lubitow  
(Cohen)

**October 8**  
Max Forchheimer  
Winnie Olmer

**October 9**  
Oscar Skopitz\*  
Michael Wexler

**October 10**  
Selma Eckhaus

**October 11**  
Sydney Miller

**October 12**  
Marsha Fishman\*  
Arnold Fleisher\*  
Rachel Ojalvo

**October 13**  
Walter Kielar

**October 14**  
Morton Meyers

**October 15**  
Pearl Gallant\*  
Yetta Moidel

**October 19**  
Minnie Caplin  
Carole Sue (Jaffey)  
Furman

**October 20**  
Scott Grube  
Esther Mann  
Tillie (Toby) Rosen

**October 21**  
John Schnidman  
Ruth Somers

**October 25**  
Stephen E. Jaffey

**October 26**  
Paul Lederer  
Meyer Lubitow

**October 27**  
Nathan Sanow\*

**October 28**  
Mickey Schrier  
Evalyn Stoler\*

**October 29**  
Fannie Caplin  
Rae Fleisher\*  
Esther A. Schwartz

**October 30**  
Sonia Lutzky  
Sylvia Stiller

**October 31**  
Ethel Stamler\*

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

*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**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum donation \$10, or two for \$18

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### Recipient:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

- ☐ David Solomon Operating Fund
- ☐ Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund
- ☐ 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](http://www.tbdrochester.org/donate). The minimum online donation is \$10.



### Do you receive our Weekly News email?

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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## Temple Funds

### • David Solomon Operating Fund

*Supports General Temple Expenses and Maintenance*

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*Supports Adult Learning and Community Events*

### • Marsha Fishman Memorial Fund

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### • Rabbi Discretionary Fund

### • Rabbi Skopitz Fund

*Supports Cultural Events*

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*Supports Maintenance and Repair of Torah Scrolls*

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*Serves the needs of Jews in the US military*