



The Bulletin

Volume 67 Issue 1

January - February 2020

From the Rabbi Michael Silbert

rabbi@tbdrochester.org



Our sage, Rashi, explains to us:

"The departure of a righteous person from a city makes an impression. As long as a righteous person is in their city, that person is its glory and splendor and beauty; but when they leave, there depart also the city's glory, its splendor and its beauty."

We as a congregation are made up of the members of our community. And so, what happens to us, what does it mean for us a community when members leave us?

And herein lies a sticky point, a truth which is difficult to say out loud. For in our community, every participant is welcome and cherished. Everyone who walks through our doors contributes to the unique collective character of who we are. And as our morning prayer says of the ministering angels:

"All of them are loved, all of them pure, all of them mighty, and all of them in reverence and awe carry out the will of the One who has dominion over them."

And so it is true for every member of Temple Beth David.

But the issue which causes hesitation is how despite the equality which is genuinely shared, we find a way to acknowledge the truth that there are some members of a community who quite simply go above and beyond. How some members become "pillars" of a community; people on whom the rest of us come to depend so much that we fear we might flounder without them and not know how we will cope.

I mean what I've said to you before: each of us is unique in our blessings and our gifts such that never before in the history of humanity has there ever been someone quite like each and every one of us, with what we have to offer. And for some people, those gifts lie in their remarkable ability to organize community, to make community happen.

They are driven by the question: If I don't stand up, then who will? If I do not make this happen for everyone, then what will I have? What will I be left with?

So, if truth be told, there's definitely more than just a modicum of self-interest here, because they also are driven by their own need for community, which is fine, so long as the type of community that they need is compatible with the type of community that the rest of us need.

Those rare individuals who get it right are more than just leaders, they

are statesmen - or statespeople - people who show wisdom, skill, vision and outstanding competence in conducting a public agenda.

So, what then will we do without Ellen and Bill Gertzog? What will become of us in their absence as they move to Massachusetts?

Certainly, the greatest tribute we can pay to them is to learn from them. Instead of being paralyzed with fear, we choose to be inspired by them, to try to wrap our heads around all that they have done for us over many years and the sheer volume of work and service they have performed on a daily basis.

I'm not even going to present a list here because I'm afraid that *will* trigger paralysis, but suffice it to say, there are plenty openings, plenty opportunities here at Beth David for others now to step up to the plate, to make mistakes and to learn, but to continue to mold this into the type of community we want it to be.

In that regard, our future is bright. Just think of what we can accomplish if we do it together!

At the same time though, we are forced to acknowledge that saying Goodbye is one of the toughest things that we ever have to do.

The first week will feel strange, and so will the week after that. But when I think about what they are doing, I have nothing but admiration for them.

Together they have acknowledged that they are moving into a new phase of their lives. And this part isn't about location or geography, it's about age and stage. But they've taken this bull by the horns as well, have stared it straight on, have asked tough questions, have communicated about it with each other, and have dared to dream.

From this, too, we draw inspiration from them about how to live our lives and what to make of the only chance we get. We salute them, not just for what they have done for us, but for their courage to do this for themselves. While it may have come as a shock to us, when we really think about it, there should be nothing surprising about this decision of theirs as it is entirely consistent with the boldness of vision and boldness of action that we all know of them.

בואכם בשלום וצאתכם לשלום –

They came to us in peace all those years ago; while they were with us they blessed us with meaning and joy; and now we wish that they should leave us in peace, knowing that we are forever changed by them. May they always know that they have a place here with us so that they should feel free and unencumbered to return and visit with us, when the time is right.

Thank you.

Michael



It Is Not Beyond Reach

Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. It is not in the heavens, that you should say, "Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.

Deuteronomy 30: 11-16

When I was a newlywed and began hanging out in shuls, one of the first things that made a deep impression on me was the Torah, the physical Torah. We went to a shul where, if there wasn't a bar mitzvah going on, everyone was invited to crowd around while the Torah was being read. I couldn't get enough of it, seeing the parchment, the sinews binding the pages together, the hand-written text with the little crowns and decorative flourishes. It felt very magical in a way that physical objects seldom do, and immediately connected me to the long history of the Jewish people.

A few years later, we visited the Holocaust museum. One of the moments that hit me the strongest was near the end. There is a room about the Displaced Persons camps, and it contains Judaica that the survivors made as art therapy. There were challah covers and seder plates and towels with the blessing for washing hands embroidered on them. The artwork is about what you'd expect from a random crowd of people, nothing special, but I was struck that collectively they were recreating Jewish culture. There were enough people who know the language and the blessings to recreate Jewish practices. I was struck by how the broadness of the distribution of Jewish learning is what has let the Jewish people survive such a long and traumatic history. We are able to pass on our culture because so many people hold pieces of it. If it were more narrowly held by a small number of experts, we might have been wiped out. Since that day, I have wanted to be a part of that story, of being a minor and unimportant Jew who can learn enough of our deep tradition to help it survive and pass on.

It's the project of a lifetime. I started with trying to learn Hebrew. That didn't happen very fast, but each time I restarted the effort, I gained a tiny bit more, and over the years it added up. In 2001 at the age of 45, I did my bat mitzvah. I struggled to learn a tiny bit of Torah, but I shared the bimah with fourteen other people between the ages of 25 and 75. Our friends and relations filled the B'rith Kodesh sanctuary to bursting, and we read from a Torah from the Czech collection, which bore a tag the Nazis had affixed. They'd acquired it to build a museum about the Jewish people, whom they expected to disappear. I felt quite triumphalist to be reading from that Torah, which is in normal service rather than a museum, while Nazi remnants resided in museums.

Undoubtedly you've noticed that Bill and Ellen Gertzog have left Temple Beth David, moving to the Berkshires. They were pillars of our community, providing so much loving devotion to the congregation in so many ways, including the chanting of Torah. I'm taking this as a signal to step up my own efforts. There is space for me to lein more lines and more often. By doing so, I'll progress in my mission to broaden and deepen my learning so that I can be a part of the story of the wide and deep distribution of Jewish learning which lets our people survive and thrive.

I hope that others will take this opportunity to lein more as well. If you've done it once or twice a year, try doing it more often. Four to twelve times a year? Why not? It gets easier, the more you do it. If you've done it several times a year, try doing it monthly or twice a month. That's how we acquired the lovely group of leiners we have. Bill told me that until he joined Temple Beth David, he'd never really leined beyond his bar mitzvah. Cindy Halpern started as an adult. So did Gary Cohen and Sarisa Zoghlin. I think that what distinguishes Temple Beth David is the fact that we are

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
Linda Servetnick	January 25
Sarisa Zoghlin	January 27

February Birthdays

Marc Lande	February 2
Bonnie Abrams	February 3
Pam Rosen	February 7
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

We'd like to thank the entire congregation for the lovely send-off kiddush on December 7.

We are grateful to you for being our Jewish home for the past 20 years, and for your warmth and generosity.

We will miss you and hope you'll stay in touch!

Bill and Ellen Gertzog



Thank you to Linda Roth and to the families of Perry Kest - Michael, Rachel, Nadav, Elie, Stephen, Tali, Nava, Rafi and Ilan - for sponsoring Kiddush and to Maxine Manjos, Bernie Roth, Karen Schaffer and Lilly Sherman for sponsoring the Kiddush soup.

small enough to give space to those who aren't superstars to work on their skills and grow, and that we're largely made up of members who keep growing and learning.

When I started leining at Temple Beth David, it wasn't at all easy for me. I struggled to learn my few lines, and I was very nervous each time it was my turn. Gary would try to ease my nerves by giving the honor of blessing the reading to my husband Howard at first, and having him by my side helped me feel supported. Then one day my turn was coming up and it wasn't Howard who'd been given the little bronze plaque. I frantically looked around wondering who it would be. I saw Yolanda, who is a good friend, and thought maybe it was her. That would be OK, I'd feel supported by her. Then I saw Ellen and I knew I'd feel supported by her. One by one I looked at each member of the congregation and knew that every single person there would make me feel supported. In that moment, I was overcome with knowing what a wonderful place TBD is to grow and learn. It is not too baffling, nor beyond reach. It is very close, in our mouths and in our hearts.

I invite you to join me by stepping out of your comfort zone and leining a little more Torah. And if you've never done it at all, you can join the rest of us adult learners in starting. Rabbi Silbert is talking about offering a class for beginners. Let him know of your interest. I'm reminded of a saying of Rahm Emanuel's (he may have gotten it from someone else, but I learned it from him). Never let a crisis go to waste. Temple Beth David needs more Torah chanting after losing the Gertzogs. We can't afford to let Bernie Roth take it all on, though he would do it and do it well. We need to collectively deepen and broaden our skills. Join me. Our little crisis can also be our opportunity to grow and flourish.

Donations

Received October 16, 2019 - December 15, 2019

DAVID SOLOMON FUND

IN MEMORY

Marvin Davis

Jeffrey Baker & MaryJo Meteyer
Joseph & Francine Cassoria
Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen
Ross & Marlene Elkin
Stanley & Michelle Gross
Cynthia Halpern
Howard & Helen Kashtan
Roberta Kinell
Myron & Rheva Kleinberg
Howard & Amy Ressel
Bernard Roth
Ron & Carol Schott
Jack & Wendy Scull
Lilly Sherman
Richard & Joyce Towber

Sylvia Stiller

Jeffrey Goldberg
Cynthia Halpern
Jane Levin
Frayda Penini

Irving Lubitow

Bernard Roth
Ron & Carol Schott
Richard & Joyce Towber

Michael Simon

Sandra Cohen

Scott Grube

Neal & Sue Eckhaus

Mort Bittler

Roberta Kinell

Stephen Jaffey

Bernard Roth
Lois Wolff

Esther Conwell Rothberg

Lewis Rothberg & Shelby Nelson

Philip Stark

Karen Schaffer

Estelle Kaufman

Richard & Joyce Towber

IN HONOR

Bill & Ellen Gertzog

Scott & Merrie Franklin

GET WELL WISHES

Irving Mindlin

Lilly Sherman

IN GRATITUDE

Juliet Lande

IN SUPPORT

Michael & Gretchen Kriss

RABBI SKOPITZ FUND

IN MEMORY

Louis Gertzog

Barbara Gertzog

Peter Manjos

Maxine Manjos

MITZVAH KIDDUSH FUND

IN MEMORY

Pearl Gallant

Donald Gallant

Annette Applebaum

Tille (Toby) Rosen

Ron & Jean Brandwein

Irving Lubitow

Gary Cohen & Pam Rosen

Marvin Davis

Ed & Sue Drexler

Mildred Feinberg

Marvin Davis

Rhea Feinberg

Irving Lubitow

Jonathan Rich

Frances Stark

Karen Schaffer

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Howard Kashtan

Ed & Sue Drexler

IN HONOR

Alex Cohen

Karen Schaffer
Tom & Judy Wolbert

MARSHA FISHMAN YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY

Marsha Fishman

Ethel Stamler

Marge Gould Panitch

Abraham Fishman

Dolly Fishman

Harold Fishman

Helen S. Klein

Marvin Davis

Richard & Ann Howell

Helen Abelson

Richard & Andrea Smith

TORAH REPAIR FUND

IN MEMORY

Irving Lubitow

Phil & Sue Lederer

Fannie Caplin

Shirley Schnidman

Frank Schnidman

IN HONOR

Bill & Ellen Gertzog

Lisa Klein

HERB KRAUS ADULT ED FUND

IN MEMORY

Paul Lederer

Phi & Sue Lederer

Sylvia Stiller

Irving Lubitow

Marvin Davis

Maxine Manjos

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND IN MEMORY

Marvin Davis

Ronald Lessner
Warren & Sue Simon
Ira & Sherrill Pogal
Rickie Gordon & Mark Donahue

Larry Brandwein

Ron & Jean Brandwein

Ruth Shechet

Kevin & Judy Fleissig

William Isaacson

Daniel Goldman

Sonia Lutzky

Phil & Sue Lederer

Joseph Levy

Mildred Levy

Theodore & Shirley Levy

Lois Wexler Markus

Michael Jay Wexler

Sidney Markus

Irving Lubitow

James & Sharon Parker

Linda Raphael

Marvin Raphael

Blanche Saltzman

Daniel & Risa Saltzman

Evalyn Stoler

Beverly Zwick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alex Cohen

Martin & Lauren Yesowitch

IN GRATITUDE

Burton and Marilyn Segelin

Lewis Rothberg & Shelby Nelson

SOLDIERS PROJECT

IN MEMORY

Idadore Neurock

Scott & Merrie Franklin

Frances Neurock

Harold Neurock

Frances Neurock

Harry H. Stein

Marsha Greenberg

Marvin Davis

Millard Schaffer

Karen Schaffer

CONGRATULATIONS

Paul Gately

Tom & Judy Wolbert

IN SUPPORT

Vincent Criscuolo

Marcia Davis

Paul & Judy Eissenstat



Donate online at
www.tbdrochester.org

Upcoming@Shul

Kabbalat Shabbat FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Celebrate the end of a busy week with a relaxing, soulful service to welcome Shabbat. Singing and happiness guaranteed! Mark your calendars for 6:30 PM each Friday night!

Arrive at 6:00 PM for service and stay for the optional, not potluck vegetarian dinner at 7:00 PM, served in room 106 on:

January 24

February 28

RSVP is required for dinner, no later than the previous Wednesday. For more information or to make your reservation, contact Ronna Marsh at 585.473.4317 or ronnamarsch@yahoo.com.



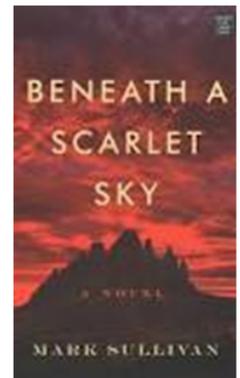
Books & Brunch

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

Hosted by: Linda Servetnick
46 Deer Creek Road, Pittsford

Sunday 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

January 19: *Beneath the Scarlet Sky*
by Mark Sullivan



Open to the community! RSVP by Wednesday, January 15
Linda Servetnick 585.820.4615 landeserv@gmail.com



PUKIM

Wednesday, March 20 7:00 PM at DHD!

Volunteer to help bake hamantaschen!

Yahrzeits

			Date Observed
January 1 Robert N. Herman	January 16 Max Gross Abraham Lutzky	January 31 Norman Gilman	February 15 Max Gordon Harry Sigelow
January 2 Lillian Mountain	David Matis Przewuzman Y'hoshua Schnidman Nathan Zeif	February 1 Ada Rosenthal Abe Rousso	February 16 Miriam Bauman Rose Kurlanshik Alexander Phillips
January 3 Fanny Rosen Michal Tal	January 17 Aaron Solomon	February 3 Arthur Bauman Ida Gertzog Laurie Feuerstein Walsh	February 19 Rose Kessler Florence Levinson
January 4 Mac Gan Elsie Perlman	January 18 Eugene Roth	February 4 Julius Himmelstein Regina Schier	February 21 Herman Miller
January 7 Annette Formicola	January 19 Miriam Kaufman Milton Lande	February 5 Bertha Dobkin	February 24 Minnie Himmelstein Sidney Schatz
January 8 Harold Feinberg	January 20 Helen Steinberg	February 7 Barbara Goldman Minnie Haymoff	February 25 David Phillips
January 10 Adele Katzman Morris Schnidman	January 21 Sheldon Feuerstein Bernard Kaufman Donna Wexler Larca	February 8 Morris Klein George Moidel Lee Schwartz Don Vanas	February 26 Julian Braiman Frank Sherman Fanny Simon Passer
January 11 Bella Nussbaum Nissim Ojalvo Solomon Phillips	January 22 Sheldon Himmelstein	February 9 Dorothy Schwartz	February 27 Werner Schaffer
January 12 Bessie Braiman Jean Levy Gan Ben Passer	January 24 Rae Goldman Herbert Kraus Max Schwartz	February 10 Ida Skopitz	The yahrzeit date that appears above is the date of observance using the secular calendar.
January 13 Sam Cohen	January 26 Blanche Levine Benjamin Rosenbaum	February 11 Charles Jaffey	
January 14 Anna Alva Sylvia Weber	January 27 Esther Aroesty	February 14 Charles Conwell Garson Kleinberg David Nussbaum Alfred Stiller	These dates match those of the Hebrew calendar for the actual date of death.
January 15 Martin Roth	January 29 Yuda Kinel Grant Meeker		



Find us on Facebook at **Temple Beth David - Rochester, NY**. You will find photos and videos, event information, recipes, Books & Brunch, articles, and more. If you are interested in certain types of content, please send suggestions to office@tbdrochester.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**

Donor:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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
- Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund
- 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.



BRIGHTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, INC.

Rochester's Jewish Funeral Home

ESTABLISHING A NEW TRADITION



3325 Winton Road South,
Rochester, NY 14623

585-427-8520

www.BrightonMemorialChapel.com

Jarrod M. Krieger, owner and 4th generation Rochesterian



TEMPLE
BETH
DAVID

2131 ELMWOOD AVENUE, SUITE 204
ROCHESTER, NY 14618

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT No. 1111

AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM  **USCJ** Seek meaning together

Executive Board

President Maxine Manjos

Vice Presidents

Administration Linda Servetnick

Building Scott Davis, Ed Drexler

Education Howard Brill

Finance Philip Katzman

Recording Secretary Cindy Halpern

Ritual Gary Cohen

Members at Large

Scott Bauman, Ron Brandwein, Michael Berke,
Neal Eckhaus, Judy Fleissig, Keith Freedman,
Barbara Grosh, Alison Helms, David Langmann,
Sue Lederer, Alice Nussbaum, Lewis Rothberg

Temple Activity Chairs

Book of Remembrance Helen Kashtan

Cemetery Michael Berke

Media Manager Sue Eckhaus

Office Manager Rebecca Weber

585-266-3223

office@tbdrochester.org

www.tbdrochester.org

Find us on Facebook!

Temple Funds

- **David Solomon Operating Fund**

Supports General Temple Expenses and Maintenance

- **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- **Marsha Fishman Youth Education Fund**

Supports Hebrew School and Youth Educational Activities

- **Herb Kraus Adult Education Fund**

Supports Adult Learning and Community Events

- **Rabbi Skopitz Fund**

Supports Cultural Events

- **Torah Repair Fund**

Supports Maintenance and Repair of Torah Scrolls

- **Mitzvah Kiddush Donation**

- **Soldiers Project**