

The ShoFar

of Temple Beth Tzedek

February 2016
Shevat-Adar I 5776

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Temple Beth
Tzedek

Congregational Shabbat Dinner

Sponsored by
The Social Action
Committee

Services 6:00 pm.
Dinner 7:00 pm.

Adults: \$20
14 to 16 years: \$12.50
6 to 13 years \$7.50
4 and under free

Friday,
February 12



Reservations are necessary
Contact the office at 838-3232
or email kjones@btzbuffalo.org
by February 9 to make your
reservations and payment

A Word of Torah

Rabbi Moshe of Kobrin said once to his disciples: "Do you want to know where 'god is?'" He took a piece of bread from the table, showed it to everybody and said: "Here is God."

In saying God is everywhere, we do not intend to say He is like the air, the parts of which are found in countless places. One is a metaphysical sense means wholeness, indivisibility. God is not partly here and partly there; He is all here and all there.

Lord, where shall I find thee?
High and hidden is thy place;
And where shall I not find thee?
The world is full of thy glory.

(Yehudah Halevi)

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:24).

Continued on page 4

From the Cholent Pot

Perry Netter, Rabbi

When we moved to Amherst six and a half years ago, one of the first things I was told is that Buffalo is called the City of Good Neighbors. Indeed, if judging only by



my neighbors on my street, that appellation is well suited. From the moment we arrived we were welcomed by warm, kind, engaging people who only wanted us to feel a part of this small neighborhood community. It is not uncommon for me to find myself engaged in friendly conversation with my neighbors. Many of us know each other by name – so different than life in a Los Angeles neighborhood. Clearly, the City of Good Neighbors was not invented by a PR agent intending to make Buffalo look better than it is. We are a city of good neighbors.

Except when we are in our cars.

The character of Buffalonian drivers is the polar opposite of my experience with my neighbors. It is almost as if Buffalonians have split personalities: one, when we encounter each other face to face, the other when we are alone in our cars. The operative word is "alone." Buffalonians more often than not drive as if there is no one else on the road, whether in another car or crossing the street on foot.

When I walk to and from shul, as I cross Sheridan and Getzville my life is at risk. It matters not at all if I cross the street in the dark wearing a reflector vest or if I cross the street in the middle of

Continued on p4

13117 Beinaynu – Just Between Us

Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

This month, I'd like to pick up on the theme Rabbi Netter wrote about in his January "Cholent Pot" article, namely terrorism and how it can affect our lives.

For me, as the senior staff member responsible for building security and member/guest safety, it is something which I take most seriously. Virtually every month, I participate in nationwide conference calls and webinars hosted by *The Department of Homeland Security* (D.H.S.), F.E.M.A. (*Federal Emergency Management Agency*), the F.B.I., S.C.N. (*the Secure Communities Network*) and other government and faith-based super organizations.



Not a session goes by where I don't learn something new or pick up on some 'best practices' that other houses of worship employ to safeguard their sacred communities. While we strive to maintain an open and welcoming atmosphere, we are also cognizant of the many threats to public assembly around the country and attempt to moderate those concerns for safety with the warm, accessible community we have come to enjoy.

Our board and officers are planning an evening with our local Buffalo F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge and a representative from the D.H.S. so that we can better understand our local community as it relates to the larger American scene. If and when educational opportunities present themselves (to learn more about security) we will attend them.

Currently, there is no known active threat to the American Jewish community generally, or to the Buffalo area in particular. That doesn't mean we should relax our guard. Rather, we should be aware of the following two stratagems:

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!"

That's the motto made famous by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of NYC, but it could very well pertain to any shul in these troubled times. With the recent tragic events of Paris and San Bernardino, CA, it reminds us that we must continue to be vigilant and alert to potential threats while still maintaining a warm, welcoming congregation.

Continued on p6

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Sisterhood Women & Network

Judith Katzenelson Brownstein

We continue to have programs for our congregation.

In December our Hanukkah event was **On the Chocolate Trail**, jointly sponsored with the Brotherhood. Rabbi Deborah Prinz came in to discuss her book of the same name, as she took us through history and the role Jews played as great chocolatiers of Europe. Who knew? Well, those of us in attendance now do and then had the pleasure of enjoying a chocolate themed brunch. A good time was had by all.

January 24th was our Tu B'Shevat Seder. The 15th day of Shevat is the New Year for the trees, fruits and seeds. Our women's themed event celebrated as a time for hope and new beginnings with a Seder involving tasting new fruits and wines.

Upcoming we have a Rosh Chodesh program on Tuesday morning, February 9th, which happens to be the beginning of Adar I (yes, this is our leap year on the Jewish as well as the secular calendar). Part of our history as a people has involved groups of women gathering for educational and social purposes; thus, historically, Rosh Chodesh observances have been centered by, for and about women. This year we will have some readings, done in the first person, about some of our lesser known biblical women. If you would like to participate in the activity or just come to listen and learn and socialize, please contact Linda Steinhorn (634-6330).

For Purim, we are having Vashti's Bazaar Banquet on March 20th. A recipe exchange is scheduled for April 10th. More about these events in upcoming Shofars.

Please don't forget Torah Fund, which we do all year round. Torah Fund is the international project of Women's League, our branch of United Synagogue. Through this project we raise money for the four theological seminaries for Conservative/Masorti Judaism located in New York, Los Angeles, Jerusalem and Buenos Aires. Our local solicitation went out to many of you several weeks back and we appreciate your continued support for this endeavor.

Our benefactors, guardians and patrons proudly wear their pins, denoting giving at larger levels, but anyone can participate. Torah Fund cards are available to purchase (proceeds going directly to the program) through our gift shop or at our events. Send them to wish others a mazel tov, speedy recovery or sympathy.

Again, we hope as many of you as possible will join us at these events, and, more importantly give us your input for what you want to see in programming and activities.

Youth Education Committee

We Need You

Leah Blum/Rebecca Simons, Co-Chairs

Our synagogue Youth/Education committee is responsible for overseeing all programming for our children ages birth through college age, including the Geshur School and the youth groups offered for children in grades K-12.

We need help!! Our committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at shul, at 7:30pm. Please come and join us at any time. We would be thrilled to have you join us. Let us know if you'd like to participate in occasional programs, even if you can't commit to the monthly meetings.

We also want to bring two important issues to your attention:

1. The Scholarship Committee has funds available to assist families with paying for approved informal Jewish educational experiences, such as Jewish camps and Israel trips. Please speak to Rabbi Netter or Harvey Brenner directly if interested. This assistance is available to encourage families to seek out these valuable experiences.

For those of you with children or grandchildren planning travel to Israel, please plan to attend the upcoming Community Israel Information Night, 5:30 pm on February 24th at the Lippman Lounge at the JCC. Information about available programs and scholarships will be presented.

2. Our Recycling Fundraiser is ongoing. Please consider donating your recyclable bottles/cans to our Committee. We have a receptacle in the back hall at shul, or you can bring them directly to Millersport Recycling and Bottle Redemption Center at 803 Millersport Highway- just down the street from TBT! Tell them that you are donating your bottles and cans to Temple Beth Tzedek Youth. We have already collected a few hundred dollars from this venture, but would be able to earn far more with increased participation from the congregation. The money from this is currently going to help replenish the Confirmation Fund, but with increased revenue, we can also help to continue to build the Scholarship funds.

Our children are a vibrant part of temple life, and the youth programs need ongoing support. Please consider getting involved. Thank you!

Leah Blum and Rebecca Simons
Youth/Education Committee Co-chairs

From the Cholent Pot. Continued

the day. By my non-scientific count, there have been at least seven incidents when drivers turning east on Sheridan have completed the turn with me in the crosswalk, coming within two feet of running me over. It's not that they can't see me; it's that they don't. I have seen three accidents caused right in front of me by drivers who have driven through the red light. That is only when I am there. One can only imagine how often the red light is ignored at that intersection each day. Now multiply that number by scores of other intersections where the same aggressive driving behavior is exhibited.

In most places in which I have lived, courtesy on the roads is a fundamental part of the social contract. This is the unspoken agreement: if I allow you to change lanes in front of me, you will allow me to change lanes in front of you when my turn comes. But there is no such contract on the Thruway. Few drivers will slow down to let a car merge in front of them. The protocol is to wait for the car in the next lane to pass, and pray there is space to merge. Whether space will appear is a matter of divine intervention.

This became apparent the other day as I was changing lanes. I

turned on my blinker, edged over to the edge of my lane, and was pleased to see the driver of the car in the next lane slow down to allow me to enter the lane. I was so grateful at such a rare occurrence that I waved a thank you. The driver behind me, unaccustomed as he was to gestures of thanks, returned what he was certain was my one finger salute. He

"At the end of the day, the question remains: which is the true character of the Buffalonian?"

was so angry that he switched lanes to pass me, and as he did he made sure I saw the salute once again.

No more than a week later a driver of a commercial van behind me slammed his palm on his steering wheel and gave me the finger because I did not run a yellow left turn arrow. My obeying the traffic laws cost this guy another fifteen seconds until oncoming traffic cleared and we could turn left. Again, as he passed, he made sure I knew of his anger.

At the end of the day, the question remains: which is the true character of the Buffalonian, the kind-hearted, warm-smiling, favor-giving, thoughtful members of my neighborhood, or the self-absorbed, mean-spirited, aggressive drivers on our streets?

That question is not for me to answer.

See you in shul.

A Word of Torah Continued

God is within all things, not only in the life of man. "Why did God speak to Moses from the thornbush?" was a question a pagan asked of a rabbi. To the pagan mind He should have appeared upon a lofty mountain or in the majesty of a thunderstorm. And the rabbi answered: "To teach you that there is no place on earth where the Shekhinah is not, not even a humble thornbush." Just as the soul fills the body, so God fills the world. Just as the soul carries the body so God carries the world.

- Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man is Not Alone*

Service Times

WEEKDAY

Sunday *Shaharit* 8:30a

Mon-Fri *Shaharit* 7:30a

Daily *Minha/Maariv* 6:00p

SHABBAT

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00p

Shaharit 9:00a

Minha-Havdallah

February 6 5:00p

February 13, 20 5:15p

February 27 5:30p

Junior Congregation 10:30a

February 6, 27

REFA'ENU

February 4 7:30p

Mazal Tov

Rise' & Kevin Kulick on the birth of their granddaughter, Flora Sage Gold

Marcia & Alan Goldstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Goldstein

Rabbi Perry & Safi Netter on the birth of his grandson, Eitan Adin Khoury Netter

Elinor Weiss on being awarded the 2015 letter-writer of the year by CAMERA

Commitment, Priorities and New Years Resolution

Einav Symons, Education Director

Luckily I get two chances each year to make (and break) New Year's resolutions.

This year, for December 31st, I made the resolution to become a more involved parent in my son's education at Casey Middle School. My previous level of involvement had been to ask him to log onto Wits (a school program) to show me his report card. I did not know what classes he was taking, who his teachers were, what he liked, or what he found challenging. I did not attend his football or basketball games. My deal with him was that he has to keep a 96 average, or else...

So, so far, I have been good at keeping my resolution. I've attended basketball games, I know about his teachers and classes. I even know his school schedule.

As I reflected on my lack of commitment, I realized that it was my way of dealing with the fact he was not at Kadimah. That being said, I also realized that I have to change my priorities. I can't say that it was easy. You may want to know why I am sharing this with you in this column.

At Gesher we have three kinds of parents. Those that are always involved in Religious School, those that try to be involved, and those that are not involved at all. As the director of Education, I want to encourage all our parents to become involved and even share some 'baby-steps' you can take if you'd like to make this one of your New Year's resolutions.

Bring:

Bring your children to Gesher. On time. Keep them at school for the duration of the program.

Backup Plan:

If you can't bring your child, find out what was done, what was missed, and see if you can supplement that at home. Our teachers are always willing to help out if needed.

Ask:

Show interest by asking your child what was something interesting they learned, or did.

Get involved:

Parents are NEEDED at school to help with various programs. For example, the hamentashen baking. This is our largest fundraiser for the school! This year, we have been begging parents to help and get involved. Sad to say, due to minimal to no response, our tuition has to be increased for next year. Parents are invited to all our programs. The next one is the Purim Carnival on March 13th. After that we have the Pass-over Seder with Outstretched Arm that will also be a 'grandparents/special friend' day. I hope all of our families participate.

Extend the educational experience:

Why is your child at Gesher? Think about your response and motives. If (as I hope) your motives have to do with the importance of Jewish Education, Jewish identity, and Jewish community; then you should know that a "Gesher" experience in a vacuum is almost meaningless. Commit to celebrating Holidays, Shabbat, attending services or anything that works for your family. Gesher students are invited to lead Junior congregation a few times a year and they spend time in class preparing for it. It is pretty sad when only few students show up and not the whole class. Please put on your calendar the scheduled dates for Junior Congregation or see Lori Morrison or Ayelet for it. Lastly, don't be hard on yourself if you missed a class or a program. Don't 'write-off' the whole resolution. There is always next week, next Shabbat and the next program.

'Ken YeheeRatzon' - May it be your will and mine.

Beinaynu, continued

If you think something or someone doesn't look quite right, let us know. Tell an officer, clergy or staff member or call 911 if you can't find one of us. Please don't assume that someone else will or has notified us. In this case, redundancy is a very good thing!

"RUN-HIDE-FIGHT"

In the very unlikely event that there ever is an active threat on our premises:

RUN (run as far away as fast as you can) and avoid danger, then call 911.

HIDE (if you can't run, find a hiding place away from doors and windows) and do not reveal yourself until police search the premises and find you.

FIGHT this is your last resort when you have no other alternative (and your life is absolutely in jeopardy). Fight like your life depends upon it! (Historically, 16% of all active intruder situations are ended by just such citizen action.)

B"H", we will never know such violence in our towns, homes, or shul but should the worst happen, these few short slogans, put into practice, may save our lives.

As Rabbi Netter concluded, we must not allow our fear to rule our behavior or actions. We must continue to live our lives in as normal a fashion as possible. To give in to those fears and prejudices makes the terrorists the winners.

Let us hope that our community never knows the pain and loss of Paris or San Bernardino. May *HaShem* continue to bless us with peace and freedom!

L'hitraot!

*Barukh Dayan Haemet —
may their memories be a blessing*

William Godin

Father of Seth Godin
Father of Marjorie Bryen
Father of Emily Epstein
Brother of Suzanne Rothenberg

Elaine Herzbrun

Wife of Jack Herzbrun
Mother of Philip Herzbrun
Mother of Steven Herzbrun

Aaron Feuerstein

Husband of June Feuerstein
Father of Dr. Burt Feuerstein
Father of Alan Feuerstein
Father of Marcia Feuerstein
Father of Jack Feuerstein
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At the Maxine & Robert Seller Theater,
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Saturday, February 20, 2016

Wine & Cheese Reception at 7:00 pm

Havdalah at 7:15 pm

Performance begins at 8:00 pm

\$26 per ticket

JRT season ticket holders are invited to attend the reception before the play for \$6.00 each.

For information or to purchase tickets, contact:

Temple Beth Tzedek, 838-3232 or Congregation B'nai Shalom, 689-8203

Payment by 2/9/16 confirms your reservation.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations

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*In memory of Irwin Witkin
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Sylvia Polakov
Jan Presser
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Rothschild*

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Harvey & Myra Horowitz*

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Jan Presser*

*In observance of the yahrzeit of
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Jan Presser*

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Joe Sterman and
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Leon Komm
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In observance of the birthday of
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Tinka Lendner

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In honor of the birth of Eitan Adin
Khoury Netter
Alan & Charlotte Gendler

In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
Allan & Myra Werbow
Alan & Charlotte Gendler

I would like to wish a heartfelt
thank you to my family and
friends for all of your kind
wishes for my special birthday
and my speedy recovery.

~~ Helen Ablove

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2 Wednesday evenings

February 10, 17

7:30 pm



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In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
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In honor of my father's birthday
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grandfather, William Sperlin*
Harold & Arlyne Levy

Pulpit Fund
In honor of receiving an aliyah
Helen Bergman

In appreciation
Richard & Sandra Darling
Jack & Sandy Meyers

In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
Anita Snyder
Cathy & David Miller

In memory of Elaine Herzbrun
The Herzbrun Family

*In honor of the birth of Eitan Adin
Khoury Netter*
Harvey & Myra Horowitz
Janet Gunner & Glenn Pincus
Tillie Lazerson
Lance & Michele Pozarny
Sylvia Polakov
Ed & Evelyn Drozen
Jane Leve
Anita Snyder
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Helen Alove
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The Wallenfels Family
Murray Gunner
Fred & Donna Hirsh
Armand & Lori Morrison
Marcia & Alan Goldstein
The Forrest Family

Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund
*In honor of the birth of Maya
Goldstein*
Evelyn & Ed Drozen

*In honor of the birth of Flora Sage
Gold*
Marcia & Alan Goldstein

*In honor of Edith Pierce's 90th
birthday*
Phyllis Sigel

*In honor of Michael Sanders becoming
a Bar Mitzvah*
Phyllis Sigel

*In honor of Ina & Herb Scheer's 50th
anniversary*
Arnold & Eileen Markowitz

In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
Phyllis Sigel

Bruce S. Rein Memorial Fund
In honor of a speedy recovery
Nancy Kielar
Lenore Rein

In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
Lenore Rein

*In observance of the yahrzeit of
Bruce Rein*
Lenore Rein

*In Observance of the yahrzeit of
Abraham Jacobs*
Lenore Rein

In memory of Jack Levin
Lenore Rein

**Herman S. Rekoon Scholarship
Fund**
*In honor of the birth of Maya
Goldstein*
The Wallenfels Family

*In honor of a speedy and complete
recovery Leon Komm*
Ed & Evelyn Drozen

Synagogue Renovation Fund
In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
Larry & Cookie Levin

In memory of Arthur Judelsohn
Larry & Cookie Levin

Martin Sanders Memorial Fund
*In honor of the birth of Eitan Adin
Khoury Netter*
Ina Sanders & Alvin Kaplan

*In honor of Michael Sanders becom-
ing a Bar Mitzvah*
Anita Snyder
Eric & Judy Davis
Armand & Lori Morrison
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In memory of Aaron Feuerstein
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February Shabbat Times

CANDLELIGHTING	HAVDALAH
5 5:14p	6 6:18p
12 5:23p	13 6:27p
19 5:33p	20 6:36p
26 5:42p	27 6:44p

Lifelong Learning

TUESDAYS WITH THE RABBI

February 2, 9 10-11a

LUNCH AND LEARN

Wed February 24 12noon-1:30p

TALMUD

Sun February 7, 28 9:30-10:30a

GESHER

Tues February 2, 9, 23 4:15-6:15p

Sun February 7, 28 9:00a-noon

MISHPAHA

Sun February 7 10:30a-noon

February Calendar

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 23 Shevat
Ritual Comm 7:30p | 17 8 Adar I
Personnel Comm 7:00p
How to Lead a Shiva Minyan
7:30p |
| 4 25 Shevat
Refa'enu 7:30 p | 18 9 Adar I
Adult Education Comm 7:30p |
| 6 27 Shevat
Havdalah & Wine Tasting
Jr. Congregation 10:30a | 23 14 Adar I
Rabbi's Class 10:00a
Officers Meeting 7:00p |
| 7 28 Shevat
Talmud Class 9:30a
Library Comm 9:30a
Hamantashen Baking 9:00a
Minha at Weinberg 3:30p | 24 15 Adar I
Lunch & Learn noon
House Comm 7:00p
Social Action Comm 7:30p |
| 9 30 Shevat
Board of Trustees 7:30p
Sisterhood General Meeting | 25 16 Adar I
Youth/Ed Comm 7:30p |
| 10 1 Adar I
Weinberg Session 1:30p
How to Lead a Shiva Minyan
7:30p | 27 18 Adar I
Jr. Congregation 10:30a |
| 12 3 Adar I
Congregational Dinner | 28 19 Adar I
Talmud Class 9:30a
Hamantashen Baking 9:00a |
| 16 7 Adar I
Sisterhood Board 10:00a
Finance Comm 7:00p | |