

The ShoFar

of Temple Beth Tzedek

February 2019

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Please join us in daily minyan

mornings Mon-Fri 7:30 am; Sundays 8:30 am;
evenings Sun-Thu 6:00 pm



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From the President

I have always enjoyed reading Rabbi Marc Gellman's column, "The God Squad," every Saturday in The Buffalo News. Last June, one of his columns truly resonated with me, and I decided to hold onto it, knowing that the day may come when I needed a topic for my President's Report.

In this column, Rabbi Gellman mentioned the Maasai tribe in Africa. They have an exercise where they show sticks in a bundle as being unbreakable, but a single stick being able to be broken by a child. I believe that this bundle symbolizes Temple Beth Tzedek, and depicts how we are so much stronger as a community than we are alone.

We all have a variety of people that enrich our individual lives. Obviously, family tops the list. We may work with nice people that we become good friends with. We may have wonderful neighbors. But, there's something to be said for being a part of a religious community. We are there for one another in our hour of need and in our moments of joy. Week after week, the people of our congregation call or look in on those that are ill or homebound, and send meals to mourners or congregants coming home from the hospital. Congregants who want to come to services, but don't drive, are offered rides. We do this not just to be nice or to perform a mitzvah. We do this because we are a community. In Gellman's words, "religion is the glue binding all the sticks together, but it is the people who are the visible sign of hope."

Three weeks ago, my father died down in Long Island. I split my week of shiva between there and here. While down in Long Island, many old friends and family came to comfort my family and me. It was nice to feel supported there, but it was important for me to come back home (I've been here for over 30 years) and let my community embrace and take care of me, just as they did. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming. Having close to thirty people for minyan in my living room was therapeutic. The food people brought was appreciated. People sitting and listening to me tell stories about my dad helped heal my broken heart. The numerous donations that congregants made in my dad's memory was the ideal way to memorialize a man who believed in the importance of the community that a shul provides.

I will be forever grateful to the Beth Tzedek community for all you have done for me the past three weeks. In my time of heartbreak, you took care of me, let me know I wasn't alone and helped me heal. I am grateful to be part of this warm and loving community. I look forward to seeing you in shul.

Andy Gewurz

Communications Task Force

We are forming a task force to enhance communications. contact Ezra Rich at ezrarich@gmail.com if you can help with this important initiative.

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"On Doubt and Prayer"

There are many texts found in the siddur that are not easily planted in our mouths, minds, hearts, and souls. For example, how might a person say with integrity, "My God, the soul You have given me is pure" while intellectually struggling with the existence of soul, and beset by uncertainty about the presence of God in the world?

The siddur is certainly not an organized textbook of theology, but through the course of the week, and the calendar year, we are guided to encounter many core articles of Jewish belief. The existential problems of the siddur are, in reality, far more acute than most classes in theology. In the end, a textbook of theology presents ideas for rational or intellectual reflection with no immediate behavioral consequence. The siddur and religious services, on the other hand, make an immediate demand that we say words (whether aloud or silently) that are sometimes at odds with what we think and feel.

How is a person of integrity, then, to behave in response to our fixed liturgical texts? There are those who will not utter a word that is at variance with their own core beliefs, who sit passively through much of the synagogue service. For others, the texts of the siddur are edited and adapted either by contemporary denominations or by individuals. Others turn to an approach sometimes called *kiv'yachol* ("so to speak" or "just imagine"), suspending the more rational, intellectual faculties to engage with the texts of the liturgy from a metaphorical, emotional, spiritual, or communal perspective.

I suspect that for many in the Jewish world, there is a drift among these approaches (and others) that varies week by week, or even day by day. There are those who find that words are a distraction, and that silence, breath, and melody form the basis for the spiritual journey. There are many joyous and simple songs and melodies that engage us in exuberant celebration and praise. The Hasidic tradition also offers more contemplative melodies—the *d'veykus niggunim* that seek to arouse the soul to cleave to the Divine.

The message and invitation of our synagogue is to engage and to wrestle seriously with the words and deeper meaning of our prayers. I invite our TBT community to share with me the challenges and the joys found in the words and melodies of our Tradition

Rabbi Sami Barth

Mazel Tov

- Myra & Harvey Horowitz on the birth of their grandson, Miles Augustine Horowitz
- Eileen & Jerry Markzon on the marriage of their son, Jason Markzon to Marilyn Turner
- Lisa Kovel and David Burstein on their engagement
- Mona & Fred Lewis on the birth of their grand-daughter, Maya Gilah Timoner
- Shira & Rob Goldberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily Callyn Goldberg
- Jeremy Werbow, the Tzafon USY Regional Membership/Kadima VP, received an award at USY International convention in Orlando for the largest percentage increase in Kadima (Pre-USY) membership of any region in North America. Hannah Wallenfels, Tzafon USY Regional SATO (Social Action/Tikkun Olam) VP, received an award for the highest per capita donation of any region in North America

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See you with a Shofar article soon



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Service Times

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Sunday *Shaharit* 8:30am
 Mon-Fri *Shaharit* 7:30am
 Daily *Minha/Maariv* 6:00pm

SHABBAT

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm
Shaharit 9:00am

MINHA-HAVDALLAH

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| February 2 | 5:00 pm |
| February 9 | 5:00 pm |
| February 16 | 5:15 pm |
| February 23 | 5:15 pm |
| March 2 | 5:30 pm |
| March 9 | 5:45 pm |
| March 16 | 6:45 pm |
| March 23 | 7:00 pm |
| March 30 | 7:00 pm |

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The Merlin Family - Ruth, Perrie, Celia, Rae and Veevee would like to express their deep gratitude to the Beth Tzedek Community for the wonderful outreach of love we and our families have felt, following the passing of our beloved husband and father, grand-father and great-grandfather Irving (Yats) Merlin. Toda Raba

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Marcia & Len Saran*
Myra & Allan Werbow

Janet Gunner

Rick Jacobson*
Tillie Lazerson*
Shirley Magil
Jerry Markzon

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Tova Ablove
Anonymous
Nevaeh Andrews (by Myra & Allan Werbow)
Leah Blum (by Fern & Steve Bernstein)
Judith Epstein

Daniel Pincus

Rachel Pincus
Harvey Sanders

Lilah Waldman (by Linda & Laurence Boxer)
Robin Waldman (by Linda & Laurence Boxer)

*Milestone Year

*We gratefully acknowledge donations in observance of the following
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1641 N. Forest Road
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CANDLELIGHTING

February 1 5:09p
February 8 5:18p
February 15 5:28p
February 22 5:37p
March 1 5:46p
March 8 5:54p
March 15 7:03p
March 22 7:11p
March 29 7:19p

HAVDALAH

February 2 6:14p
February 9 7:04p
February 16 6:31p
February 23 6:40p
March 2 6:45p
March 9 6:14p
March 16 7:22p
March 23 7:30p
March 30 7:38p

February Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 26 Shevat Gesher/CSS Shabbat at Congregation Shir Shalom | 2 27 Shevat Jan/Feb Simcha Shabbat Jr. Congregation |
| 3 28 Shevat | 4 29 Shevat | 5 30 Shevat Gesher in session | 6 1 Adar | 7 2 Adar | 8 3 Adar | 9 4 Adar Jr. Congregation |
| 10 5 Adar 9:30am Plaque Comm. Gesher in Session 3:30pm Weinberg Mincha | 11 6 Adar | 12 7 Adar Gesher in Session 7:00pm Board Meeting | 13 8 Adar | 14 9 Adar 7:00pm LGBTQ/ Keshet Meeting | 15 10 Adar | 16 11 Adar Jr. Congregation |
| 17 12 Adar 10:30 am Women's Network Board | 18 13 Adar | 19 14 Adar 7:00pm Finance Committee 7:30pm Ritual Committee | 20 15 Adar | 21 16 Adar 7:30pm Adult Ed Committee | 22 17 Adar | 23 18 Adar No Jr. Congregation |
| 24 19 Adar | 25 20 Adar | 26 21 Adar Gesher in Session 7:00pm Officers Meeting | 27 22 Adar 7:00pm House Committee | 28 23 Adar 7:30pm Youth/Ed Committee | | |

March 5—2:30 pm—6:30 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile
March 10—Women's Network Vashti's Banquet
March 17—Purim Carnival
March 17—10:30 am—Outstretched Arm Purim Program

March 20—Macaroni & Megillah
March 21—1:30 pm Weinberg Megillah Reading
March 30—March/April Simcha Shabbat
March 30—Hillel Shabbat