The Shofar of Temple Beth Tzedek

July 2019

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The summer has just started and we need to prepare for the upcoming High Holiday season. We are beginning preparations for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and seek to strengthen and enrich our community by maximizing opportunities for our congregational community members to participate in services. Unfortunately, there are not enough opportunities for all to participate every year. Our solution is to give priority to those who have experienced special circumstances (mourners, new members, new parents, newly-weds, b'nai mitzvah) this past year, and then to honor those who have not received an honor in recent years. Please don't be shy if you are offered an opportunity to participate.

To be certain that we do not overlook anybody, if you have one of the following skills, have not participated in past years, but would like to this year, please contact us by July 15.

Leading davening / Reading Torah / Chanting Haftorah / Sounding the Shofar

And if it has been so many years since you have had a chance to participate that you think we might have inadvertently missed you, and you would like to do one of the following, please contact us by July 15.

Opening the ark / Carrying a Scroll / Having an Aliyah / Lifting the Scroll
Dressing the Scroll (Gelilah) / English Reading

Contact us at 838-3232 or email at rh-yk@btzbuffalo.org.

Personal Reflections

As this interim year draws towards final days and weeks I look back on a year filled with many events and milestones for the congregation as well as for families and individuals. It was a special honor to work with the Beit Tefilah committee to see their hard work and dreams brought to fruition at the dedication of our magnificent new building, a new building with (literally and metaphorically) a bridge to generations past. It has been a special privilege to work with the Kesher committee. The sense of passion to affirm and support the vision of our shared humanity, and the truly heroic work that supports this vision, regardless of differences in access needs, abilities and expressions of love is a rare blessing among US synagogues.

For the final Shabbat I spend with the congregation (July 5/6) Karen and I are sponsoring kiddush - and we would wish it to be especially in honor of all who have, and will, participate in the work of Beit Tefillah and Kesher; may this work be the source of a thousand blessings to all.

I'd like to thank the community of staff and colleagues who support the work of the community from day to day. Thanks to Cantor Spindler who literally fills the sacred space of Congregation Beth Tzedek with the most perfectly accurate rendering of the words of Torah, and meticulously renders each segment of our liturgy with the "nusach" appropriate for the occasion. My deepest appreciation to Kim Jones for the way in which she maintains balance and coherence among so many spinning wheels of work and activity within the community (and keeps everyone content with M&Ms). Thanks to Pat upon whose shoulders so much (literally) rests and to Michele and Terri who keep a welcoming smile in the office and to Sparky and his team who have kept bellies (and hearts) happily filled.

Most members of the Congregation have little sense of the debt that is owed to Andy Gewurz (and to all previous Presidents); the hours that he commits, gladly, to the work of the shul are limitless, as is the gentleness and mentschlichkeit he brings to his role in the Congregation. Let me thank him for his care and loyalty to the shul, and let my thanks to him to represent all the elected leaders of TBT and their committees with whom I have had the opportunity to share in the holy work of this community.

Most of all - my thanks to you all - the members of this sacred community who have invited me to share moments of holiness, private and public, joyous and sorrowful. Those moments are sacred, whether in a hospital room, your homes, a coffee bar or my office and our conversations, learning, prayers and commitments have sustained me greatly through the year.

Continued on p4

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Leah Blum and Rebecca Simons,
TBT Youth/Education Co- Chairs

Happy Summer!

We are writing to share the news of some recent changes that will be occurring in the administration of the CSS religious school for the 2019/2020 school year.

We have been notified that CSS has decided to hire Einav Symons as the new Director of the CSS/Gesher Religious school effective immediately.

We will be meeting with Einav immediately to share our concerns and ideas for the coming year. We are excited to welcome Einav back and look forward to working with her to provide the highest quality education for your children.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. You will be hearing directly from Einav in the near future.

In addition, Rebecca Simons has decided to step down from her position as the Co-Chair of the TBT Youth Education committee. I want to personally thank Rebecca for her time and dedication in her role as my co-chair over the past few years. She has made such valuable contributions and I am so grateful for her help and friendship. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all she has done. Thank you so much Rebecca!

From Rebecca: "It has been such a pleasure working with Leah as co-chair, and I have really enjoyed getting to know the members of the Youth Education Committee during the past couple of years. I have tremendous respect for the collaborative effort made by so many volunteers on behalf of our synagogue community."

Rebecca is leaving big shoes to fill, however I am thrilled to announce that Rob Taylor will be stepping into those shoes. Rob is a professional educator and he brings experience in both formal and informal education to this role. He is a teacher in the Buffalo Public School District, a coach, a former Camp Centerland staff member, and the past manager of Hebrew High. In addition, he is member of the Board of Trustees of TBT, and perhaps most importantly, he is a dad with a vested interest in providing the highest quality programming to his son, along with all of the children of TBT. He will be my new co-chair, but will be assisted by his wife, Brittany who will fill in for Rob at times, due to the demands of his schedule. I am excited to be able to announce that this change will be effective as of July 1st, and welcome Rob and Brittany to this role.

From the President

This summer at TBT!

Summer is usually a quiet time at temple. Our kids are away at camps, many of our congregants travel, and everyone likes to enjoy the beautiful Buffalo summers. Much of what is happening this summer at TBT revolves around our rabbinic transition and putting the finishing touches on our new home.

July 6th will be Rabbi Barth's final Shabbat service with us. We thank him for his service to TBT during his year here. We have benefitted from his extensive knowledge of Torah, Liturgy and current topics. As a bonus, Rabbi Barth was also able to share with us what has worked in the other synagogues he has served. Rabbi Barth and his wife Karen are generously sponsoring the Kiddush this Shabbat as a thank you to the congregation. I hope you will all come to say goodbye and wish Rabbi Barth well.

On August 1st, G-d willing, Rabbi Moshe Silberschein will assume the pulpit as our Rabbi. Like Rabbi Barth, Rabbi Silberschein will be serving as a one-year interim . He has already expressed his excitement in becoming involved in all aspects of life at TBT. He plans on attending morning and evening minyan, and is looking forward to performing pastoral care duties and working with our children in the religious school. Please come to services during August to meet and welcome Rabbi Silberschein to Buffalo and TBT.

Our High Holidays committee will be working all summer to set up our Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services. It may seem early, but it isn't. Please consider participating in our services. Final touches on our new building continue. Landscapers are planting grass all around our building. This summer we hope to fully enclose the minyan room, get our library books fully shelved and functioning.

Continued on p5

Personal Reflections Continued

Greater Buffalo has a rich, gifted and wise circle of professional Jewish leaders, who have welcomed me into their midst. The wisdom and vision shared so graciously by Rob Goldberg are a wellspring for the present and future. Rabbi Alex Lazarus-Klein has been a welcoming colleague, a visionary and kind teacher and a partner in planning, teaching and learning. To both of them, and to all my colleagues -- rav todot, many thanks.

I know that the community will be served with distinction in the coming year by Rabbi Silberschein; he is known as a wise scholar and as a mentsch. Of course, all rabbinic questions and pastoral matters should be directed to him upon his arrival; I will always be glad to hear from TBT members personally, - and if any of you should wish to receive my Torah reflections occasionally by email, I will be sharing a link in early July to make that possible.

Above all I am grateful to family for love and support, and I am grateful to the Holy One of Israel, the One Who Spoke and the world came into being. May we all be blessed in the months and years to live with the knowledge and faith that we are the descendants of ancestors who made an abiding Covenant with the Eternal.

Rav berakhot - Many blessings
Rabbi Samuel Barth

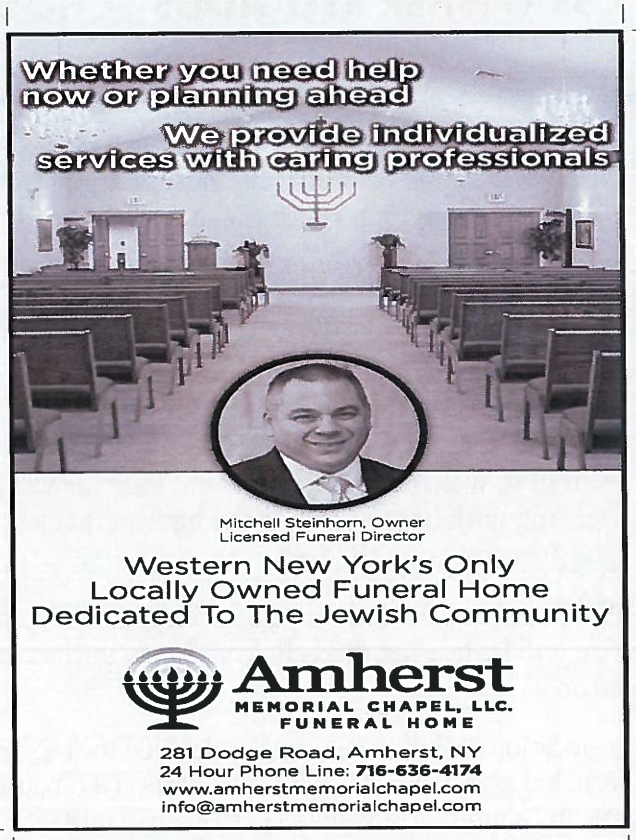
MAZEL TOV

— Rebecca & Michael Silverman on the birth of their granddaughter, Vivienne Oz Passey Silverman

Please join us in daily minyan

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

Every member is important to our daily minyan. Your participation strengthens and enriches our kehilla.



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Service Times

WEEKDAY

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

SHABBAT

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm
Shaharit 9:00am

MINHA-HAVDALLAH

July 6	8:30 pm	August 3	8:00 pm
July 13	8:15 pm	August 10	8:00 pm
July 20	8:15 pm	August 17	7:45 pm
July 27	8:15 pm	August 24	7:30 pm
August 3	8:00 pm	August 31	7:15 pm

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From the President Continued

The glass cases for the Women's Network Gift Shop should soon be fully installed and stocked with their beautiful Judaica. Most importantly, many security upgrades are planned for the building to keep us safe. Finally, in July, I plan to work with the TBT Engagement Team to develop an effective way to reach our membership and strengthen their ties to our community. Although summer tends to be a little quieter than the rest of the year, please remember that we have services every Friday evening, Saturday morning and daily minyan. I invite everyone to come worship and schmooze at Kiddush with us.

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Temple Beth Tzedek Appoints New Interim Rabbi

Temple Beth Tzedek is pleased to announce the hiring of Rabbi Moshe M. Silberschein as interim rabbi for the coming year. Rabbi Silberschein was selected by TBT's rabbinic search committee, co-chaired by Lisa Wallenfels and Harvey Sanders, and subsequently accepted by the Board of Trustees and the approval of the congregation. He will be arriving in Buffalo in early August and is looking forward to meeting members of the congregation, Jewish Buffalo and the broader community.

"I'm really looking forward to joining the Beth Tzedek synagogue community as its interim rabbi starting in August," says Rabbi Silberschein. "It's exciting for me to preach and teach Torah in a new environment, meeting new faces, making new friends, and experiencing a new city among the 'Frozen Chosen' of Western New York," he adds.

Temple Beth Tzedek is excited for its new rabbinic leadership as well.

"We look forward to welcoming and working with Rabbi SIlberschein," said Temple Beth Tzedek President Andrew Gewurz.

"Our committee reviewed many candidates and we're fortunate to be bringing Rabbi SIlberschein to Buffalo," noted Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chair Lisa Wallenfels..

"Rabbi Silberschein's broad experience working with students and congregants of diverse backgrounds makes him a strong fit for our shul and our new sacred space," added Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chair Harvey Sanders.

A native of Detroit, Rabbi Silberschein made Aliyah to Israel in 1982 and has subsequently been a well-regarded teacher of undergraduate, graduate, rabbinic, cantorial and seminary students in Jerusalem for decades. The former dean of the Schechter Rabbinical School of the Masorti Movement in Israel, he is currently a faculty member at the Reform Movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Jerusalem campus and the Jerusalem University College on Mount Zion, a global academic consortium of Protestant Christian colleges and universities. Rabbi Silberschein enjoys teaching people of many backgrounds, including Christian students seeking perspective on Judaism and Jewish life in Israel. He will be spending his current academic sabbatical leading Temple Beth Tzedek, an opportunity to engage with our community as we prepare for our first High Holy Days in our new North Forest Road location.

Beyond academia in Israel, Rabbi Silberschein has served in rabbinic roles with American congregations. During his last sabbatical, he was the interim rabbi at Congregation Agudath Achim of Savannah, Georgia. Previously, he held high holiday roles with Beth David Synagogue of Greensboro and Beth Meyer Synagogue of Raleigh, North Carolina, respectively. Earlier in his rabbinate, he was rabbi of the Jewish community in Tokyo, Japan as well as rabbi of Cong. Adath Jeshurun of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rabbi Silberschein received his rabbinical ordination from The Jewish Theological Seminary and his B.A. in Linguistic and Hellenistic Studies from Columbia University in New York City. He is married to Susan, a nurse at Hadassah Hospital, and they have two adult sons, Aviad and Alon.

Rabbi Silberschein succeeds Rabbi Samuel Barth, who is the new interim rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

"Inside and Outside"

First of all, my thanks to all those in the many circles of TBT who have supported me along the journey this year in my role with you as Interim Rabbi.

The teachings of hassidic masters, along with other classic sources of wisdom often explore the distinction between *penimiut* and *chitsoniyut* (the "inner" and the "external"); this categorization can be applied to each of us as we look at our inner world, the experience and journey of soul and psyche and also think of our relationships with others, the circles of family, friends, community and society. Similarly within TBT there is the inner world of community gatherings, our celebrations of shabbat and engagement in daily prayer, the needs to sustain and support learning and administration, our building and staff. And ... there is the external world with ever growing crises and cruelty, divisiveness and environmental destruction. This congregation is passionate and deeply committed in both the inner world and the external.

I invite us to weigh the qualities that we each bring to the work of the shul; the history of the shul is testimony to the generosity and passion. This moment allows for some *cheshbon hanefesh*, some inner exploration for us all. Certainly there are moments when we have felt misunderstood, and perhaps we have misunderstood others.

On every occasion that we return the Torah scroll to the ark, we turn to the words of Mishlei (Proverbs) "*Derakheha darchei noam vekol netivoteha shalom ...*" ("Her ways are ways of beauty and all Her pathways are peace ..." understood as referring to Torah). The literature of the halakhah applies these values to rituals within the synagogue and to our behaviour in wider society. Of course we are commanded to visit the sick of all families of all faiths, to support all the needy, ... based upon this precise teaching. And of course the four species of Sukkot would not include a thorny bough that would draw blood - because that would violate "*darkhei noam*" the ways of beauty.

Can we all challenge ourselves to commit more deeply to this abiding value, to pursue kindness and peace in our lives within the walls of the congregation, and beyond. I look forward to hearing of the next steps in the journey of the Temple Beth Tzedek community, and invite always your reflections, your concerns, your support.

Bevirkat shalom, with blessings of peace

Rabbi Sami Barth

Barukh Dayan Haemet — May Their Memories Be a Blessing

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Husband of Marcia Burstein
Father of David Burstein
Father of Michelle Hershel
Father of Robert Burstein
Father of Heidi Meyer

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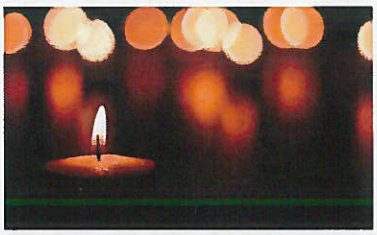

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In memory of Dr. Paul Burstein
Pam & Andy Gewurz

In memory of Leonard Weiss
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Gert Bacol

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In observance of the yahrzeit of Cantor Gerald DeBruin
Tinka Lendner

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In honor of a speedy recovery of Rosalie Rosenband
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Marc Sorotsky

In memory of Alan Gendler
Judy & Eric Davis

In memory of Dr. Paul Burstein
Steve & Fern Bernstein
Armand & Lori Morrison

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Shirley & Larry Magil

In memory of Norma Abbey
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Elaine & Mel Brothman

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In appreciation of Outstretched Arms Shabbat
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In appreciation of Bernie Weinstein for Women's Jewish Group Home activities
Bruce & Sharla Bleichfeld

In appreciation of Cantor Spindler for Passover Outstretched Arms participation
Bruce & Sharla Bleichfeld

In appreciation of Kesher
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Mona Schwartzberg
Gertrude Schwab
Helene Smallen

In appreciation of Marty Kerker for Women's Jewish Group Home activities
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In appreciation of Passover Outstretched Arms Volunteers
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In appreciation of Rabbi Barth for Passover Outstretched Arms participation
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In appreciation of the Kesher Outstretched Arms program
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In appreciation of the Shavuot package
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In appreciation of the Shavuot Volunteers
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In appreciation of Sharla & Bruce Bleichfeld, Beverly Schiller, Larry Boxer and the whole Kesher Committee
Lynn & Dick Hirsch

In honor of Cookie & Bernie Redlich's special birthdays
Ilene Levine

In honor of the anniversary of Sharla & Bruce Bleichfeld
Janet Gunner & Glenn Pincus

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In honor of Helen Ablove's granddaughter, Sara's bat mitzvah
Lance & Michele Pozarny

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Past Presidents of Temple Beth El

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Joe Zackheim

In appreciation of Cantor Mark Spindler
Sara & Ezra Rich

In appreciation of The Steinhorn Family
Pam & Steve Cohen

In honor of Janice Robins' 80th birthday
Herb & Roz Weiss

In honor of Joe Scheff's 85th birthday
Donald & Arlene Altman
Susan Levy
Sid & Linda Weiss
June Iris Hesch

In memory of Al Kershanbaum
Louis & Janice Siegel

In memory of Dr. Paul Burstein
Jane & Stu Fischman
Gale Burstein
Marcia & Norm Weiss
Amy-Beth Taublieb
Leon & Cindy Komm

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Myra Werbow

In memory of Leonard Weiss
Phyllis Sigel

SECURITY FUND DONATIONS

Thank you to the following members for their donations to the Security Fund since last month. If you would like to contribute, please contact the synagogue office.

Beth Kassirer
Janet Harris
Andrew & Bonnie Levine

We gratefully acknowledge donations in observance of the following Yahrzeits

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May the memory of the righteous be a blessing

Temple Beth Tzedek

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Permit No. 2434

CANDLELIGHTING

July 5	8:39 pm
July 12	8:36 pm
July 19	8:31 pm
July 26	8:25 pm
August 2	8:17 pm
August 9	8:08 pm
August 16	7:58 pm
August 23	7:47 pm
August 30	7:35 pm

HAVDALAH

July 6	9:50 pm
July 13	9:46 pm
July 20	9:40 pm
July 27	9:32 pm
August 3	9:23 pm
August 10	9:12 pm
August 17	9:01 pm
August 24	8:49 pm
August 31	8:36 pm

Shofar Ad Space Available

The Shofar reaches over 550 families. An ad in the Shofar is a wonderful way to expand your business footprint. If you would like more information about advertising in the Shofar, please contact Kim in the synagogue office at 838-3232 or kjones@btzbuffalo.org

July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 28 sivan	2 29 sivan 7:30p Ritual Comm. 3:00-7:00p Blood Drive	3 30 sivan	4 1 tammuz OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 am Services	5 2 tammuz	6 3 tammuz
7 4 tammuz	8 5 tammuz	9 6 tammuz 7:00p Board Meeting	10 7 tammuz	11 8 tammuz 7:00p Investment Comm.	12 9 tammuz	13 10 tammuz
14 11 tammuz	15 12 tammuz	16 13 tammuz 7:00p Finance Comm.	17 14 tammuz	18 15 tammuz 7:30p Adult Ed. Comm.	19 16 tammuz	20 17 tammuz
21 18 tammuz	22 19 tammuz	23 20 tammuz	24 21 tammuz	25 22 tammuz 7:30p Youth/Ed Comm.	26 23 tammuz	27 24 tammuz July/August Simcha Shabbat
28 25 tammuz	29 26 tammuz	30 27 tammuz 7:00p Officers Meeting	31 28 tammuz			

Thank you to Eric Davis for his emergency help with wiring in our building. It is very much appreciated.