

The Shul for of Temple Beth Tzedek



FEBRUARY 2020

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An Update from the Rabbi Search Committee

By the time you are reading this, our shul will have already been through a few rabbinic visits as we are in the season of our sacred search for our next rabbi. We have been fortunate to welcome Rabbi Adam Rosenbaum, Rabbi Evan Ravski and Rabbi Joshua Hearshen, respectively, as well as reviewing other candidates. We hope to finish our evaluation of the candidates and begin negotiating with the right one for our shul in a responsible fashion.

All of our congregants play a key role in this process. First off, what makes our shul and community so special are the great people who comprise the membership of Temple Beth Tzedek. Your warmth and interaction with the candidates help them see the breadth of our congregation. Similarly, by sharing your evaluations with the committee, you help inform us of your views on the rabbinic candidates.

In addition to those meeting them in-person, the feedback from seeing the Livestream and sharing your questions during the sessions are a testament to the passion you have for the integrity of our future rabbinic leadership.

We want to thank all of you, as well as our committee colleagues and the Temple staff for all their hard work surrounding these visits. It takes a village. This is a village in which we have much pride. Please continue to come to shul to meet the rabbis and share your feedback afterward.

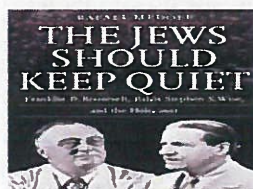
Together, we are meeting candidates and helping prepare Temple Beth Tzedek for a bright new chapter in our beautiful new space.

Harvey Sanders and Lisa Wallenfels, Committee Co-Chairs
Andrew Gewurz, President



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From the Rabbi

"Upon the righteous and upon the pious, upon the elders of Your people the house of Israel and upon the remnant of their scholars, upon the **righteous converts**

and upon us - may Your compassion be aroused, O Lord our God..."

-From the Blessing for the Righteous in the Amidah for weekdays

Recently, I was asked to serve on a Beit Din for conversion in nearby Toronto. Sitting there with my rabbinic colleagues, it was my responsibility to examine the sincerity of individuals who came before the court desiring to join the ranks of the Jewish people.

And as I heard the candidates there relate the stories of their personal spiritual journey, I couldn't help but be moved by their excitement and by the new discoveries, novelty, they were constantly finding in Judaism. I couldn't help but think of the first "righteous convert" to Judaism singled out in the Torah according to our sages - Yitro, Moshe Rabbeinu's father-in-law.

In the next few weeks as we relive in the weekly Torah portion our Exodus from Egypt and Revelation at Sinai, we will once again read this year the Torah portion named for Yitro the outsider who came to join Israel under the protective wings of the Divine Presence. His Torah portion opens with the words "Yitro priest of Midian Moshe's father-in-law heard all that God had done for Moshe and Israel His nation." There is no one opinion among our sages on exactly what he heard. Some among them say that Yitro had heard about the war with Amalek mentioned at the end of the preceding Torah portion. Others contend that he heard about the splitting of the Red Sea. There is even one opinion that Yitro had heard about the giving of the Torah even though it isn't given until the next following chapter in

Parashat Yitro (a classic instance of the phenomenon "There is no early or late in the Torah," that at times the Torah will change the chronological sequence of events in its narration in order to emphasize or teach a specific point).

However, the sages are all in agreement that "as a result of what he heard Yitro converted to Judaism (Zevachim 116a)." As a result of what he heard, Yitro cast his lot with the Jewish people's destiny. Moreover one can infer from this Talmudic passage that even if the events in our Torah passage are out of time sequence, all concur that Yitro was never present at Sinai. Yitro was so close to that decisive moment in our people's history - the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the 10 commandments - and he missed it. Chapter 18 of Exodus opens with Yitro arriving in the desert at the place where Moshe "encamped - the mountain of God," and concludes with Yitro departing from there, going his own way. He was in the shadow of Sinai but he didn't remain for the following chapter where in chapter 19 the Jewish people experience God's divine presence accompanied by lightning and thunder at Sinai. He just missed it, but was almost there at one of the greatest moments in human history. What a great loss on his part. But on second thought, perhaps it wasn't such a great loss.

Yitro is a paradigm of piety for the ages. He comes to Torah and Mitzvot out of choice, of his own free will, and is truly worthy of praise and of the Torah portion named after him. Never viewing any of the wonders and miracles that the children of Israel saw, he was nevertheless convinced of the rightness of the path he chose for himself. The sage of ancient Israel Rabbi Shimon Ben Lakish most likely had Yitro in mind when he taught: "The proselyte who enters the ranks of Israel is more precious in God's sight than the entire children of Israel who stood before the Holy One at Sinai; For if they had not seen the lighting and the thunder, the mountains trembling or the shofar trumpeting at Sinai - they would never have been willing to accept the Torah.

Continued on p7

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December 20th marked the end of my year of saying Kaddish for my father. While Kaddish is supposed to be eleven months, a leap month last year pushed it close to twelve. I am not by any means the most observant Jew. However, saying Kaddish for my father was something I knew I had to do and wanted to do. As a child, I saw my dad attend minyan every morning and evening to say Kaddish for his father. Even on our winter vacation in Miami Beach, he got up every morning to go to a local shul. It was important to him, and it therefore became important to me as well. As he battled cancer in his mid 70s, he once remarked that he wouldn't have anyone say Kaddish for him. At the time, with the demands of a young family, I couldn't assure him I would. Thankfully, he lived another fifteen years. He lived long enough for me to be an empty nester and no longer responsible for getting kids ready for school. As a bonus, we had just moved into our new building on North Forest Road, less than a half mile from where I work. Getting to minyan every morning was no longer a challenge.

Originally, I thought I was saying Kaddish for him. It didn't take long to figure out that I was really saying it for myself. Nowhere in the prayer is death or dying mentioned. The prayer is a proclamation of the greatness of God. By reciting it, we are showing that even though our faith is

being tested by the death of a loved one, we still affirm our faith in God. For me, it helped me focus on that even with a loss, we are obligated to live life and enjoy what God has given us. When I first started, there were congregants that were almost finished with their year of Kaddish. As the year progressed, other congregants lost parents and joined us at minyan. It was comforting having others standing for this prayer and knowing they were going through the same thing I was. Even though there was no sitting in a circle and sharing our feelings, it was a support group nonetheless.

Over the past year I have said the Mourner's Kaddish easily over a thousand times. Every time I closed my eyes and relived a memory of my dad in my head. Some were funny (actually, most were, as he was quite a funny guy), and some were sad. Doing this for almost a year helped me transition from a world where I had a dad, to a world where he is gone.

For anyone going through a loss, I would encourage you to give saying Kaddish a try. If not every day, then once a week or once a month. To everyone else not in mourning – being in attendance for minyan gives those in need the ability to say Kaddish. Our daily minyan is a great way to experience community on a smaller, more personal level. Please consider participating in this vital part of the fabric of TBT.

ANDY GEWURZ

Barukh Dayan Haemet — May Their Memories Be a Blessing



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Sunday Shaharit 8:00am
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 Daily Minha/Ma'ariv 6:00pm

SHABBAT

Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm
 Shaharit 9:00am

MINHA-HAVDALLAH

February 1	5:00 pm
February 8	5:00 pm
February 15	5:15 pm
February 22	5:15 pm
February 29	5:30 pm
March 7	5:45 pm
March 14	6:45 pm
March 21	7:00 pm
March 28	7:00 pm

MAZEL TOV

- Barbara & Michael Sitrin on the birth of their grandson, Max Adrian Ruda
- Sharon & Michael Serota on the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel Ann Sliwa
- Karen Sipes on the birth of her granddaughter, Mable Jane Sipes
- Benjamin Pincus and Kimberly Deluca on the birth of their daughter, Eliza Marie Pincus
- Janet Gunner & Glenn Pincus on the birth of their granddaughter, Eliza Marie Pincus

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In observance of the yahrzeit of Rose Gabin
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In observance of the yahrzeit of Martin Trossman
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Youth Fund

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Armand & Lori Morrison
Leah & Jeffrey Blum

In memory of Melvin Brothman
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Leah & Jeffrey Blum

women's network

The ladies of our Women's Network have been quite productive these past few weeks. We still meet every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am to read and discuss literature. We have had the pleasure of Rabbi Moshe Silberschein joining in our conversation. At the moment, we are reading "Rabbi Akiva - Sage of the Talmud" by Barry W. Holtz and we are very appreciative of our rabbi's insights.

Many thanks to Rachel Anderson and Linda Linsky for organizing our Chanukah cooking program in December. We dined on homemade latkes made by our Chef Sparky and his significant other, Nancy McKelvey, demonstrated making fancy and delicious holiday desserts. We ate all afternoon.

On Sunday, February 9th, we will be celebrating the new year of the trees, with a Tu B'Shevat Seder. Rusty Zackheim, Judy Alessi and Pam Buyer have planned a wonderful brunch so that we can sample fruits and nuts with hard shells, fruits with pits and without, and 4 glasses of grape juice. Please put this event on your calendar.

Due to popular demand, we are planning another outing. On Wednesday, March 18, we will travel by limo bus, with Ron, our driver, to the National Comedy Center in Jamestown. We will sit back and leave the driving to Ron, and then enjoy the comedic and interactive exhibits and have dinner. Cost is approximately \$100, all inclusive. Please make your reservations early, as we tend to sell out. You may contact me or Rusty for more information.

The synagogue held a workshop pertaining to what to do in an emergency. Some of us were trained on how to use tourniquets and special gauze. These supplies are expensive and our Women's Network has purchased kits to ensure the safety of our worshippers.

While we hope that you will support the synagogue's Mishloach Manot project, and the Youth Hamantash-agrams, the Women's Network is offering to send individual greetings family and friends who are not in our congregation or who are out of town. We are offering Purim cards to make it easy to share Purim joy to support our Women's Network projects which benefit our congregation.

We are still collecting receipts from Dash's Supermarkets. Please bring them to the synagogue. Many thanks to Joe Zackheim for compiling and submitting these tapes for us. Another easy way to contribute to Women's Network! Our Judaic Shop is open and you may contact Linda Linsky for an appointment.

AND, VERY IMPORTANT: A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Back, by popular demand, we will have an abbreviated Rummage Sale. Unfortunately, because of our new locale, we cannot go full scale as in previous years. However, we are willing to try something new. We are only collecting CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES (PURSES, BELTS, SHOES) - NOTHING ELSE, because of limited space. No basement. And NO Designer Room. We will be collecting merchandise starting on Monday, June 22 through Thursday, June 25 during specified hours. The sale will be in our social hall on Sunday, June 28 and Monday, June 29 ONLY. Anything left over will be donated on Tuesday, June 30. Much more information will follow, but we can use helpers. Please consider donating a little time during that week to help sort the articles coming in.

Our Women's Network is here for the women of our congregation. Please join us and support us as we support you. Linda Steinhorn - President
oralin330@aol.com 716 634-6330

From the Rabbi continued

However, the proselyte who has never even seen one of these wonders, willingly joins himself to the Holy One, accepting the kingdom of Heaven. There can be no one more dear to God than this!" (Midrash Tanchuma, Lech Lecha 6)

And Rabbi Shimon Ben Lakish was also not the only one among our sages who was enthused by Yitro's deeds. In Yitro's Torah portion it is further written: "Yitro rejoiced over all the good that God had shown Israel when He delivered them from the Egyptians. Yitro said: 'Blessed be God (Baruch Hashem) who delivered you from the Egyptians' (Exodus 18:9-10)." Yitro the priest of Midian was happy for the Jewish people, in no way begrudging when he said "Baruch Hashem." And from those two words Rabbi Shimon Ben Lakish's colleague, Rabbi Yochanan concluded that one is duty bound to say a blessing over a miracle when in a place that God did miraculous deeds for His people Israel (Berachot 54a). We learn that we must say a blessing over miracles from the example of a man who never experienced that miracle and who wasn't even Jewish at the time! What's more, there were among the sages who in reaction to Yitro's proclaiming of

"Baruch Hashem" vehemently criticized the Jewish people for their own lax. It was taught in Sanhedrin 94a in the name of Rabbi Papa-yis: "It is a disgrace to both Moshe and the entire 60 myriads of the camp of Israel who never spoke of God using the word 'baruch' until Yitro appeared on the scene and said 'Baruch Hashem!'"

Unfortunately, in our day these words of rebuke to the Jewish people then are still quite relevant today. But rather than be a disgrace to those who never uttered 'baruch', today it is a disgrace that there are those among us who while constantly having the words 'Baruch Hashem' on their lips, without hesitation badger and cast aspersions on those who would follow in the footsteps of Yitro the priest of Midian, who truly wish to join us in God's sheltering presence. They have forgotten whose example we follow when we bless God for the many miracles He has given our people. And they have forgotten what God told us will be at the end of days in the messianic era, that "likewise from them [the nations of the world] I will take individuals to be priests and levites declares God (Isaiah 66:21). Priests like Yitro the priest of Midian, who teach us how and why we should say 'Baruch Hashem' every day.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations

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In honor of refuah shleimah of Barbara Ginsberg

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In appreciation of Beverly & David Schiller

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Jan Presser
Steven & Sharon Jacobs

In honor of Ben Pincus & Kim Deluca becoming parents

Bruce & Sharla Bleichfeld

In honor of Daniel Pincus becoming an uncle

Bruce & Sharla Bleichfeld

In honor of gratitude of Kesher for the wonderful shiva meal provided to our family

Joe, Ozzy and Talula Enis

In honor of mazel tov to welcome to the club Eliza Marie Pincus granddaughter of Glenn Pincus & Janet Gunner

Lance & Michele Pozarny

In honor of Rachel Pincus becoming an aunt

Bruce & Sharla Bleichfeld

In honor of the birth of Eliza Marie Pincus, granddaughter of Glenn Pincus & Janet Gunner

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In honor of a speedy recovery of Ben Sanders

Sandy Perlmutter

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Ellen & David Maman

In memory of Jay Schiller

Hy & Marge Scheff

In memory of Melvin Brothman

Arlene Rossen

In memory of our loved ones

Judy & Eric Davis

In memory of Stanley Baron

Marty & Elaine Goldstein

In observance of the yahrzeit of Dorothy Rothenberg

David & Eliza Rothenberg

In observance of the yahrzeit of Norman Rothenberg

David & Eliza Rothenberg

Alan Raines Library Fund

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Ritual Fund

In memory of Lois Weinstein

Temple Beth Tzedek Board of Directors

In memory of Melvin Brothman

Rachel Moskowitz Goldstein & family

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations

Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In memory of Lois Weinstein
Ina & Herb Scheer
Miriam & Joseph Adler

In memory of Melvin Brothman
Ina & Herb Scheer

Bruce S. Rein Memorial Fund

In honor of a complete recovery of Rabbi
Jeffrey Lendner
Edna Kielar

In memory of Evelyn Stubbe
Lenore Rein

In observance of Abraham Jacobs' yahrzeit
Lenore Rein

In observance of Bruce Rein's yahrzeit
Lenore Rein
Doug, Sandra, Brina & Benjamin
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Sybil Lorbeer

In memory of Melvin Brothman
Pam Buyer

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Jonathan, Gabriel, Hailey & Judith
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Pincus, granddaughter of Glenn Pincus
& Janet Gunner
Ina Sanders

In memory of Rita Weiss
Steven Sanders

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Ina Sanders

In memory of Melvin Brothman
Ina Sanders

Security Fund

In appreciation
Jeffrey & Sheila Carrel
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Support of TBT Security
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In memory of Melvin Brothman
Eileen & Jerry Markzon
Mel & Judy Hurwitz

Nathan and Dorothy Simon Israel Scholarship Fund

In honor of a speedy recovery of Ellie Shavel
Warren Simon

In honor of a speedy recovery of Joe Sterman
Warren Simon

In memory of Rita Weiss
Joe Sterman and Sylvia Weiss

In memory of Melvin Brothman
Joe Sterman & Sylvia Weiss

The Temple Fund

In appreciation
Brenda Lehrman
Neville Jacobs

In honor of a good recovery of Ilene Levine
Selma, Larry & Sean Berger

In appreciation of yahrzeit notices
Susan Sorotsky

In honor of a fast and complete recovery of
Barbara Ginsberg
Roz & Herb Weiss

In honor of a fast and complete recovery of
Bernie Goldstein
Roz & Herb Weiss

In honor of gratitude to the Women's Net-
work for supporting our family upon the
passing of our mother and grandmother
Joe, Ozzy and Talula Enis

In memory of Esther (Dolly) Goldman
Barbara, Karen & Debra Weinberg

In memory of Rita Weiss
Annette & Bernie Schuller
Arnold Malvern
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In memory of Clifford Swadron
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In memory of Jerry Wolfisch
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In memory of Lois Weinstein
Fred & Donna Hirsh
Hannah Friedler, Mark Sokoloff
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and Rachel Sokoloff
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In memory of Seymour Goodman
Ellen & Leonard Freed

In memory of Stanley Baron
Annette & Sanford Rosenberg

We gratefully acknowledge donations in observance of the following Yahrzeits

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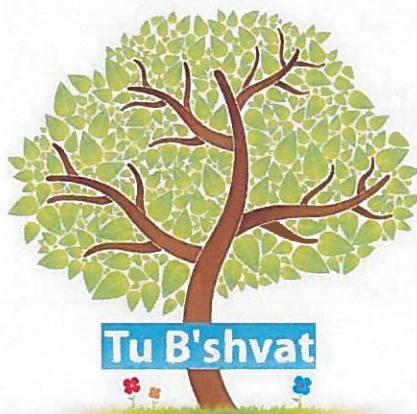
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**Please join us in
 daily minyan**

mornings Mon-Fri 7:30 am;
 Sundays 8:00 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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Voting is now open for the election of U.S. delegates to the World Zionist Congress, an event that will decide on how to allocate \$1 billion. MERCAZ, the official party representing the Conservative/Masorti movement needs your support.



TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK

1641 North Forest Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

Synagogue Office: 716.838.3232

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Cantor Mark Spindler

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February Calendar

CANDLELIGHTING

February 7 5:17pm
February 14 5:26pm
February 21 5:35pm
February 28 5:44pm
March 6 5:53pm
March 13 7:01pm
March 20 7:09pm
March 27 7:18pm

HAVDALAH

February 1 6:12pm
February 8 6:21pm
February 15 6:29pm
February 22 6:38pm
February 29 6:46pm
March 7 6:55pm
March 14 8:03pm
March 21 8:12PM
March 28 8:20pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 7 shevat Gesher in session Rabbi Ravski visit	3 8 shevat	4 9 shevat Gesher in session Rabbi Hershen visit	5 10 shevat Rabbi's Class noon Ma'asaei Ya'Denu 1-3	6 11 shevat	7 12 shevat Tot Shabbat 5:45 pm	8 6 shevat
9 14 shevat Sisterhood Program 10:30 am Gesher in Session	10 15 shevat Tu B'Shevat	11 16 shevat 7:00 Board Meeting Gesher in session	12 17 shevat Rabbi's Class noon Ma'asaei Ya'Denu 1-3	13 18 shevat	14 19 shevat	15 20 shevat
16 21 shevat Men's Club Prog 10 am No Gesher 3:30 pm Weinberg Mincha	17 22 shevat Presidents' Day	18 23 shevat No gesher 7:00pm Keshar Comm.	19 24 shevat Rabbi's Class noon Ma'asaei Ya'Denu 1-3	20 25 shevat 7:00 pm Finance Com. 7:30 pm Adult Ed.	21 26 shevat	22 27 shevat
23 28 shevat No gesher	24 29 shevat	25 30 shevat 7:00 pm Officers Gesher in session	26 1 adar	27 2 adar 7:30 pm Youth/Ed Comm	28 3 adar	29 4 adar
March 1 5 adar Gesher in session	2 6 adar	3 7 adar 10:00 am Sisterhood Board 7:30 pm Ritual Comm. Gesher in session	4 8 adar	5 9 adar	6 10 adar	7 11 adar Tot Shabbat

March 9—5:30 pm Purim Pasta Bar

March 15—Outstretched Arm Purim Program

March 22—Sisterhood Passover Program

March 10—2:00 pm Weinberg Megillah Reading

March 18—Sisterhood Excursion to National Comedy Center

March 17—1:30—6:00 pm Bloodmobile