

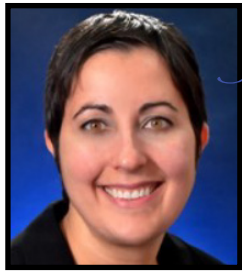
the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

February 2021

Shevat/Adar 5781



from the desk of

Rabbi Nadia Siritsky, LCSW, BCC

Deconstructing Blessings: a Reflection on Purim

Traditional rabbinic commentary teaches “Yom Kippurim, Yom K’Purim” which literally means that Yom Kippur is a day like Purim. How is this possible? These two days could not be more seemingly different, and yet, our rabbis teach us that beneath such obvious and glaring differences, there is much that these two holidays have in common. Both holidays serve as a reminder that things are not what they seem... that all of us wear masks at different points in our lives... that we must look beyond appearances and seek to find holiness in those moments when it is most difficult.

This reflection is especially profound for us as we begin 2021, a nation seemingly divided, uncertain of who or what to believe or trust... searching for redemption and miracles, hope and healing. The story of Esther illustrates the ways in which evil can masquerade as goodness and vice-versa.

The King was manipulated by his advisor to do evil, and only by hiding her true self, could Esther cause the King to fall in love with her. And yet, ultimately, it was her revelation of her identity as Jew that caused him to see clearly and to do the right thing. So too, do we learn that while much is hidden and confusing in this world, when we let Love guide us, we will find the courage to become a beacon for blessings.

This year, Purim will fall on the evening of Thursday, February 25th. May we use this time to look beyond the masks and labels that seem to divide us and remind ourselves that miracles have always emerged in those moments that seemed the darkest. May we let Love guide us past the illusions of this world, and may we find the courage to be faithful to our truest selves...

THE SHOFAR

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The Shofar is published monthly. It is distributed free of charge to members and advertising sponsors. Advertising inquiries should be addressed to Sue Kinkela at (412) 600-9553 or at abbeyrd45@comcast.net.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month which precedes the month of the publication. Late submissions will be held for the following issue.





from the President – Ruth Kurlandsky

The day after it was announced that the first Covid-19 vaccine had been approved and would be distributed, I came upon this new prayer. It was written by Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein; to my utter delight, seeing her bio, I realized that we had known her parents! They owned a bookstore in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, where we had lived for more than 20 years.

Modah Ani/Modeh Ani (I am thankful)

I thank You

For the wisdom of the scientists,

For the courage of the trial volunteers,

For the skill and strength and compassion of the health care professionals,

For the patience of the delivery workers,

All who have brought us to this moment.

For our bodies,

Our finely balanced networks,

Capable of blessing You.

May this vaccine offer protection.

May it offer strength.

May it offer hope.

Barukh atah Adonai,

Shehekheyanu v'ki'manu v'higianu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You,

Who has kept us alive and sustained us and enabled us to reach this very moment.

In writing this article, I offer you this prayer, for your use, and as an example of what people can do with our ancient Jewish prayers. This one is now listed on ritualwell.org, a lovely site with lots of contemporary prayers. If you like this kind of thing, you might also like to look at reformjudaism.org.

And another thing about prayer: we can pray anywhere. In Rabbi Nadia's Talmud class on January 9, we learned about the story of Rabbi Yosei. The prophet Elijah came to him while he was praying in a ruin in Jerusalem. Elijah asked him why there (probably because Elijah was worried about ruins falling on him). R. Yosei said he had been on the road, and "pulled off" to pray, fearing that he would be interrupted or distracted. Elijah told him that he should have prayed on the road, and that, in fact, it was permissible to say an abbreviated version when circumstances dictate the need. From that, we learn that prayer is not restricted to certain locations, such as a temple. In fact The Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed, and our sages were working out new ways of operating.

And from that, I think that our ancient sacred literature is totally relevant today: did they know back then about our need to use Zoom?

This part is optional: if you'd like to hear two wonderful young female voices singing a song to the tune of Leonard Cohen's Hallelulah, in a parody of why we should get vaccinated, check out this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnbOKH9Oe9s> Or search for "have the new jab". Stay well, everybody!

In Memoriam

February 1st, Adele Aronowitz,
Aunt of Jackie Witte

February 1st, Rose Rosenbaum,
Aunt of Renee Speisman

February 2nd, Samuel Sloan,
Father of Nancy Sorkin

February 3rd, Lynn Rich,
Wife of Steve Rich

February 3rd, William Tatel,
Father of Jane Karp

February 4th, Seymour Rich,
Father of Ron Rich

February 4th, Irving Rudnick,
Husband of Shirley Rudnick

February 6th, Stuart Garr,
Brother of Bernice Cruise

February 6th, Mary Catherine Rhodes,
Mother of Cathy Kasriel

February 6th, Anna Tinkoff,
Mother of Bernie Tinkoff

February 7th, J.T. Rhodes,
Brother of Cathy Kasriel

February 7th, Phyllis Tatel,
Mother of Jane Karp

February 9th, Adam Jung,
Grandfather of Pamela Diamond

February 9th, Ethel Sukel,
Grandmother of Debra Morris

February 10th, Herman DeCastro,
Father of Norma Tinkoff

February 10th, Harry Greenfield,
Father of Paul Greenfield

February 10th, Charles Solomon Raskind,
Grandfather of Rabbi Fred Raskind

February 10th, Richard Tinkoff,
Father of Bernie Tinkoff

February 11th, Harry Kihn,
Brother-in-law of Alice Kihn

February 12th, Mildred Firestone,
Aunt of Terre Wallach & Barbara Carman

February 12th, Joseph Gould,
Father of Ruth Kurlandsky

February 13th, Rose Miller,
Grandmother of Phil Kushner

February 14th, Saul Freed,
Brother of Mimi Selig

February 14th, Miles Goldstone,
Brother of Howard Goldstone

February 15th, Jack Broudy,
Brother of Martin Broudy

February 15th, Sherman Meiselman,
Father of Chuck Meiselman

February 15th, Mary Butler Paceley,
Mother of Robert Paceley

February 15th, Norma Tinkoff,
Mother of Wendy, Glen, & Adam Tinkoff

February 16th, Sadie Meiselman,
Grandmother of Chuck Meiselman

February 16th, Mildred Hale Rinehart,
Mother of Bev Darkatsh

February 17th, Rubin Diamond,
Father of Meri McCarthy

February 17th, Isador Ehrlichman,
Uncle of Harvey Hoffman

February 17th, Bessie Meiselman,
Aunt of Chuck Meiselman

February 17th, Charles Meiselman,
Grandfather of Chuck Meiselman

February 17th, Fred Stroock,
Grandfather of Rabbi Fred Raskind

February 19th, Martin Broudy,
Father of Joan Broudy-Harris

February 19th, J. Wendall Fargis,
Grandfather of Merrie Meiselman

February 20th, Allen J. Jedel,
Father of Joan Guglielmo

February 20th, Sarita Kasriel,
Sister of David Kasriel

February 21st, Max Markowitz,
Grandfather of Meryl Goldman

February 22nd, Miriam Bernstein,
Mother of Gary Bernstein

February 23rd, Paula Carr,
Wife of Bud Carr

In Memoriam Continued

February 23rd, Sadye Salinger,

Mother of Ellie Sussman

February 24th, Dora Freed,

Mother of Mimi Selig

February 24th, Victor Kasriel,

Uncle of David Kasriel

February 25th, Renee Lynn Beskind,

Wife of Bob Beskind

February 25th, Betty Cohen,

First Cousin of Marcia Rector

February 25th, Robert Lieberman,

Brother of Larry Lieberman

February 25th, Myron Meiselman,

Uncle of Chuck Meiselman

February 25th, Sidney Young,

Father of Phyllis Keiser

February 26th, Jack Ehrlichman,

Uncle of Harvey Hoffman

February 26th, Cecil Pacey,

Father of Robert Pacey

February 27th, Louis Hoichman,

Uncle of George Goldberg

February 27th, Frank Kinkela, Sr,

Father of Frank Kinkela

February 28th, Pearl Lucas,
Grandmother of Merri Meiselman

May their memory be a blessing

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General Fund

Laura Weiss & Robert Dawkins - In honor of our granddaughter Teddy Platten

Bobbi Carman - In memory of Naomi Swickle, mother of Jane Seiden

Linda Doyle - In remembrance of the Holocaust

Cathy & David Kasriel - In memory of Cathy's sister Mary Rhodes, brother-in-law

Emory Robinson, nephew John E. Robinson, Jane Seiden's mother, Naomi Swickle

Nancy Sorkin - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

E&M Brown, Emily Brown - In memory of Myron Mensh

Jane Lynn & George Stern - In memory of Myron Mensh

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam Continued

Carol & Bernie Levy - In memory of Myron Mensh

Alyssa Shorstein - In memory of Myron Mensh

Valerie Fischler - In memory of Myron Mensh

Barbara & Art Rogove - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Ellen & Harold Miller - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Barbara McCallon - In memory of Myron Mensh

Carol Gladstone - In memory of Myron Mensh

Rabbinic Leadership Fund

Terre Wallach - In memory of Jane Seiden's mother Naomi Swickle

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father of Denise Mensh, & grandfather of Lucy and Oliver Zicht

Mitzvah Fund

Renee & Michael Speisman for Dining with Dignity

Meri & Leo McCarthy for Dining with Dignity

Isabel Sherman - In memory of Myron Mensh

Religious School Fund

Jacqueline Witte- In honor of my granddaughter Ari Love

Ron Rich - In memory of my father Seymour Rich

Murray Weiss Fund

Jacqueline Witte - In memory of my aunt, Adele Aronowitz

Jane & Henry Seiden - In loving memory of Myron Mensh, husband of
Ellen Mensh, father of Denise Mensh, & grandfather of Lucy and Oliver Zicht

Meri & Leo McCarthy - In memory of Myron Mensh & Sheldon Beasley

Ellen & Harold Miller - In memory of Myron Mensh

Carol & Bernie Levy - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Carol Gladstone - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Isabel Sherman - In memory of Sheldon Beasley

Let's Celebrate!

February Anniversaries

February 3rd, Jane & Hal Gray, 25th anniversary

February 12th, Ruth & Bob Feldheim, 66th anniversary

February 6th, Melinda & Alexander Toro, 6th anniversary

February 18th, Emily & Jeremy Gordon, 18th anniversary

February 21st, Ann Cheiky & Bruce Simon, 21st anniversary

February Birthdays

February 2nd, Robert Chupella

February 2nd, Auri Love, 15th birthday

February 3rd, David Rieser

February 4th, Dorit Cohen

February 6th, Zorion Hermans-Sharp,
12th birthday

February 8th, Zorana Hermans-Sharp,
10th birthday

February 8th, Dean Stecker

February 13th, Mark Cohen

February 13th, Holly Guglielmo

February 22nd, Emily Gordon

February 24th, William Rosenthal

February 24th, Mimi Selig

February 26th, Ron Rich

February 27th, Alan Gramet

February 28th, Spencer Glicksman,
12th birthday

February 28th, Ronald Rideman

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Laura Weiss at (805) 705-6266 or l.s.weiss@comacast.net.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

TEMPLE BET YAM

PO BOX 860098

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086



DONOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

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IN MEMORY OF (OR OTHER DESIGNATION)

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TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION	_____
*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	_____

**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

Upcoming Events for February. Mark your calendar!

Please note all services and functions will be via Zoom until further notice.



Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:30pm, Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 3rd, 3:30pm, Jewish Meditation

Friday, February 5th, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service

Saturday, February 6th, 11:00am, What Does Judaism Say About...? Jewish Law from a Reform Perspective with Rabbi Nadia

Sunday, February 7th, 10:00am, Religious School

Wednesday, February 10th, 7:30pm, Sisterhood Book Club: *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman, discussion led by Teresa Freedman.

Sunday, February 14th, 1:00pm, New Member Get Together

Monday, February 15th, 5:00pm, Dining with Dignity

Tuesday, February 16th, 12:45pm, Jewish Pluralism in Israel

Wednesday, February 17th, 3:30pm, Jewish Meditation

Friday, February 19th, 6:30pm, Shabbat, Purim Family Service

Saturday, February 20th, 11:00am, An Introduction to Prayer Book Hebrew and Vocabulary with Rabbi Nadia

Sunday, February 21st, 10:00am, Religious School

Tuesday, February 23rd, 5:00pm, Executive Committee Meeting

More Upcoming Events. Mark your calendar!



March's Sisterhood Book Club pick is *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. Discussion to be led by Cathy Kasriel on March 17th at 1:00pm.



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