

Bulletin

Dayton's Voice of Conservative Judaism

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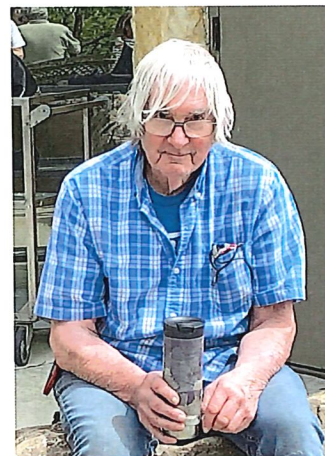
TEVET - SHEVAT 5784

In This Issue:

EVERYONE'S FRIEND

Bonnie Beaman Rice

Retiring after 40 years, at six days a week, 13 synagogue presidents, seven rabbis and thousands of congregants (more like thousands of supervisors!), Dennis Day has accomplished a nearly impossible feat, to wit: he is everyone's friend. A moniker that is well earned, in light of the fact that never has a mean word crossed his lips; never has a surly mood seeped from his persona; and, NEVER has he spilled the goods of any secrets conveyed to him by anyone of us- mainly, he says because he realized early on: "you never know who is related to who."



"From the beginning I was impressed with the way Jewish families stick together. I knew I was accepted into the Beth Abraham family when congregants began greeting me with "Shabbat Shalom" on Saturday mornings."

Dennis Day

It was in November 1984 that Dennis first crossed the Beth Abraham Synagogue threshold as our newly-hired custodian. It didn't seem like too much of a stretch. He knew our congregants from having already served as our security guard for the two years prior. And the job description did not appear too overwhelming, inasmuch as the then-existing staff included two other custodians, a housekeeper and a part-time grounds keeper. Fast forward

to the present and Dennis, at the ripe young age of 76, like a five-man band with instruments strapped to every limb, performs all these functions by himself with aplomb.

Need tables moved and chairs arranged? He'll do it. Need the kitchen kashered for Passover? He's on it. Need more energy as your committee sets up for an event? He'll provide the tempo with his favorite music genre, the sixties. Need an ear to vent to, a shoulder to cry on, a helping hand, in short, need a friend? He'll be one.

"In my many years of serving congregations across the country, Dennis is the kindest, most even-tempered, big-hearted person with whom I have had the pleasure of working."

Cantor Andrea Raizen

"Dennis is so beloved to our communal family of Beth Abraham because he cares about each and every person. Dennis is a *mensch* who reminds us through his model of caring for our community and each other what it means to be a caring, loving person - thanks for all your years of dedicated service Dennis and may you continue to be a blessing!"

Rav Aubrey Glazer

Mind you, none of these latter tasks were in his job description; but his duties clearly included taking care of our synagogue home and over the years, not unlike Noah, he kept us 'afloat,' despite two floods (one on Salem and one at Sugar Camp) and two lightning strikes! If facilities maintenance was a competitive sport, the final score would be Noah 1 and Dennis 4!

(Continued on page 4)

BETH
ABRAHAM
SYNAGOGUE



The Cantor's Corner Cantor Andrea Raizen



We are just beginning the Book of Exodus in our Torah reading cycle, and in just a few of weeks we will hear *Shirat Hayam*, the Song at the Sea.

Despite the fact that we read according to the triennial system at Beth Abraham, we follow the tradition that we *always* chant the song every year. This is certainly in keeping with the fact that this particular Shabbat is called *Shabbat Shira*, or the Shabbat of Song. The entire song is part of our daily morning liturgy in the preliminary prayers and the essential line, *Mi chamocha baelim Adonai*, Who is like You, God among the gods, is found in the morning and evening service. When it is chanted from the Torah, a special melody is used for certain phrases. Although it is said to be quite an old melody, it probably is not what Moses and Miriam sang at the shores of the sea.

The account of the Israelite's exit from Egypt, the tense moments when they find themselves trapped at the edge of the sea and the consequent miraculous redemption as the sea parts, lends itself to a plethora of *midrashim* that attempt to add important details to the story. Probably the most famous of which tells that the Israelites were in a real panic. No one knew how to swim well enough and it became a mob scene. One man, Nachshon ben Aminadav of the tribe of Judah, figured out the answer. He found himself a little space, backed up and took a running leap toward the sea. When his toe got to a place where it should have touched the water, the sea divided under him and he landed on dry land. Israel then marched forward. Nachshon literally took a leap of faith.

A variation of that story says that a circle of people are standing at the edge of the sea, every one afraid to go into the water. Each tried to push someone else

into the water. Eventually one man fell by accident, and then the sea divided. Sometimes, even against our will, we are called upon to be a leader.

Another story has its basis in Talmud, but with a healthy dose of feminism thrown in. It states that each tribe wanted to be the first to enter the water. Each wanted the bragging rights for their tribe, so they prevented every other tribe from getting wet. While everyone was pushing and holding each other back, the women looked at each other, held hands and stepped into the sea at once. The moment they entered, the sea divided. When that happened, the men stopped struggling with one another and all of Israel began to cross.

Once the Israelites pass through the sea and the Egyptians drown in pursuit, Moses leads the people in song, praising God. This is the first song recorded in the Torah. But just how was it sung? The Rabbis offer three opinions. The first says that Moses sang a verse and then the people responded with what was essentially a refrain, like the chorus of the song. This continued throughout the song. Another opinion explains that Moses sang each verse and the people simply repeated those same words. And the last states that as soon as Moses began to sing, the people spontaneously joined him, already knowing all the words. At the end of the traditional song, the Torah tells us that Miriam took her timbrel and led the women in song and dance, *Vata-an lahem Miriam: Shiru L'Adonai ki ga-oh ga-ah, sus v'rochvo rama vayam*, "And Miriam chanted for them: 'Sing to Adonai, for God has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider God has thrown in the sea.'" Some claim that this one-line song was the original *shira* in its entirety. I am particularly partial to this theory as it makes Miriam the first cantor, and a female to boot! No matter which tradition you prefer, I encourage you all to continue to lift your voices together in joyous song as we begin a new year.

BETH ABRAHAM



GIVING SOCIETIES

{ CHAI SOCIETY }

MIKE FREED
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TERRY & MARLENE PINSKY
ALLAN* & BRENDA RINZLER
NORM & MARY RITA WEISSMAN

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BRUCE & DEBBIE FELDMAN
DAVID & SUSAN JOFFE
MARC KATZ & JULIE LISS-KATZ
EDWARD & MARCIA KRESS
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ALAN & MYRNIE MOSCOWITZ
WALTER RICE & BONNIE BEAMAN RICE
REX & LOUISE TINCHER
FRIEND OF THE CONGREGATION
FRIEND OF THE CONGREGATION

* OF BLESSED MEMORY

SECRET OF SLOW-COOK NATION AND THE AROMA OF SHABBAT: WHY *CHOLENT* IS SO DELICIOUS

RAV AUBREY GLAZER

If you have ever smelled the aroma of Shabbat, then you will agree there must



be some secret recipe! If so, we might start by considering just why *Cholent* is so delicious...

Firstly, what is *Cholent*? In

good Jewish fashion, the name *Cholent* itself is under debate: [*cholent*] to be a compound word coming from the French *chaud* ("hot") and *lent* ("slow") or of *chaudes lentes* ("hot lentils"). That's enough proof for me, but not to be outdone by the French, Hebraicists offer a competing theory that *Cholent* is actually of Hebraic origin, coming from *she-lan* ("that rested [overnight]") referring to how Jews would keep familial pots of *Cholent* in their town's baker's ovens to cook. Finally, Yiddishts like Max Weinrich argue that *Cholent* is derived from the Latin present participle *calentem* ("that which is hot") from the Old French *chalant*, present participle of *chalt*, from the verb "to warm," *chaloir*. The debate over *Cholent's* etymological history indeed reflects the multiplicity of its manifestations - just think of all the recipes out there, and even if you've tasted many, you definitely haven't yet

tasted them all.

Secondly, why *Cholent*? If Torah asserts that we are not allowed to kindle a fire on Shabbat, according to Exodus 35:3, and cooking is among the 39 categories of work not allowed on Shabbat according to rabbinic tradition, then what is a loyal Jew to do on Shabbat for food? *Cholent*! Before we were a *Start-up Nation*, we were a *Slow-Cook Nation* (way before it became all the rage)! The Jewish people displayed their creativity in finding ways to still cook while respecting these strictures so that Shabbat could be truly a delight while remaining faithful to Torah. The origins of this succulent dish are Middle Eastern, and from there it spread to North Africa, and by the ninth century it was already found in Spain, and eventually it made its way to Eastern Europe. We discover recipes for Ashkenazi-style *Cholent* by Rabbi Yitzhak of Vienna in 1180. Recall this was prior to electricity in Europe, so it made practical sense that a pot with the collected, uncooked ingredients would be brought to the local baker before sunset on Fridays. We even learn how the lids of the pot were sealed with a paste of flour and water to ensure proper cooking over Sabbath. With the baker's oven fired up, the pots found a home. Nothing was disturbed until the following next midmorning, when the baker would open the door and give the still-hot pots back to the families on

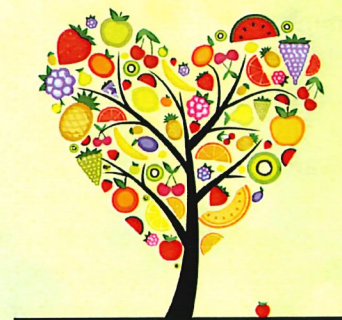
their way home from Synagogue, thus enabling Shabbat delight and observance all to be preserved. Proof is in the widespread appeal of this same practice observed in Medieval Spain, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Uzbekistan where black pots of *Adafina*, *Scheena*, *D'fina*, and *Bokla*, respectively, were placed overnight in the baker's ovens.

Thirdly, why does *Cholent* still matter? The diversity of the locavore ingredients in this overnight slow-cook stew are a reflection of the diverse Jewish geography of their origins. Consider that Moroccan *Scheena* is made with chickpeas, rice or hulled wheat, potatoes, meat, and whole eggs, while the Tunisian *D'fina* incorporates lamb's feet and cardoons, a relative of the artichoke.

So remember the Sabbath and delight in it as Torah teaches us—how? By preparing and delighting in the original ethos of the Slow-Cook Nation. Whatever your style of *Cholent*, it's impossible not to fall in love with that glorious aroma that will encircle and draw you back home for Shabbat. We'll pursue the possibility of making *cholent* at Beth Abraham in the future. In the meantime, Slow-Cook Nation might inspire your kitchen and reconnect you to that timeless aroma of Shabbat.

Tu B'Shevat

Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees, falls on January 25, but we will celebrate with a Taste of Tu B'Shevat following Kiddush lunch on **Saturday, January 27**. Similar to the Passover seder, we will drink four cups of wine (or more likely grape juice), eat a variety of fruits and nuts that remind us of the Land of Israel, and sing some songs. This is a great way to connect to Israel and the environment and enjoy some tasty treats, as well.

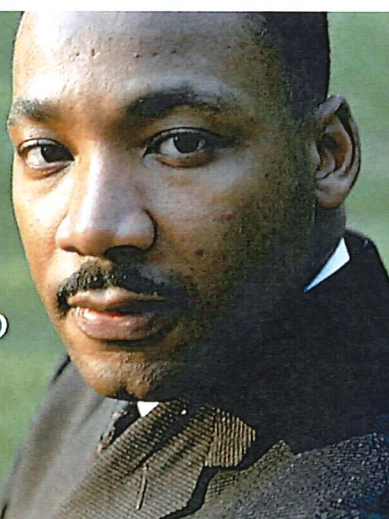


MLK SHABBAT AT BETH ABRAHAM

On **Saturday, Jan. 13**, Rav Aubrey and Pastor Moss from The Potter's House will have a bimah dialogue at Beth Abraham on the enduring teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his allyship with Rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel. Congregants from The Potter's House will join us that morning and we hope you will as well!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
(1929-1968)

EVERYTHING
THAT IS DONE
IN THE WORLD
IS DONE BY
HOPE.



CALLING ALL SCOUTS ON YOUR HONOR!

Were you a Boy Scout or Girl Scout growing up? Beth Abraham will be hosting Scout Shabbat on **February 10th** and we hope you will join us! David Shuster is working with us on the service and would like to hear from you. You can email him at: dshust@sbcglobal.net.



BOOK LAUNCH - DUETS ON PSALMS

Rabbi Jack Riemer invites you to join him for the launch of his new book, co-written with Rabbi Elie Spitz, called *Duets on Psalms: Drawing New Meaning from Ancient Words*. The event will be held on Zoom on Monday, January 15 at noon. It is an exploration of the Psalms with contemporary explanations, perfect for those who like to study Bible and post-Biblical Judaism. Please email the office (bas@bethabrahamdayton.org) to let us know if you plan to attend, and we will send you the Zoom link.



(Continued from page 1)

Over the years Dennis has handled every problem with the mediation skills of Aaron and the wisdom of Solomon. When some congregants complained that the sanctuary was "too hot" and others that it was "too cold," Dennis wisely counseled that those congregants should switch seats with each other!

We are so very lucky that Dennis, who grew up in a military family and served in the Air Force all over the world, displayed the same commitment and loyalty to us at Beth Abraham all these years. We are grateful to his wife Patty, his three daughters, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren (with another on the way!) who have so graciously shared Dennis with us. Being home with his family on the weekends is what Dennis most looks forward to in his retirement.

Dennis' daily presence will be sorely missed but we look forward to a continued friendship as he becomes a retiree. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, Dennis. It is our honor to know you and, a testament to your honor, that throughout your 40 years spent with us, you have been **everyone's friend**.

"Everybody loves Dennis! His dedication and care for the Beth Abraham community has been simply outstanding." *Matt and Elaine Aronovitz*

"Dennis was a steady and loyal fixture at Beth Abraham. He also exhibits a sense of calm in making sure everything was set up for our religious observances and occasions. He will be missed." *Scott Liberman*

"No one looks as stunning in a donated prom gown as Dennis!" *from a prior Social Action Chair*

IN THE BETH ABRAHAM FAMILY

We Gratefully Acknowledge...these thoughtful contributions

Bert Appel Fund

In memory of

DeNeal Feldman, by Renate Frydman

Cantor Raizen's Discretionary Fund

In memory of

DeNeal & Esther Feldman, by Larry & Cindy Burick

General Fund

In memory of

Richard Flagel, by Marni Flagel

Bill Bernie, by Robert & Nora Newsock

DeNeal Feldman, by Susan & Carol Chudde, Cathy Gardner, Howard & Sue Ducker, Cherie Rosenstein, Alvin & Ellen Stein, Martin & Susan Schear, Alan & Elyse Berg, Joe & Linda Beaman, Ann & Scott Liberman

Esther Feldman, by Susan & Carol Chudde, Ann & Scott Liberman, David & Lynn Goldenberg

James Froug, by Cherie Rosenstein

In honor of

JoAnn Chambers' Journey to Judaism, by Franklin & Cheryl Lewis, Beth Adelman

The baby naming of Leora Sherman, by Liz & Steve Musin

Margaret Maimon's Journey to Judaism, by Franklin & Cheryl Lewis, Beth Adelman

Meryl Hattenbach & Joe Beringer's wedding, by Irvin & Gayle Moscovitz

The birth of Leora Sherman, by Philip & Julie Goldstein

Speedy recovery

Marc Katz, by Irvin & Gayle Moscovitz

Gerald Wilks Fund

In memory of

Philip Froikin, by Howard Ducker

Ida Pinsky Fund

In memory of

DeNeal Feldman, by Don & Carole

Marger, Terry & Marlene Pinsky

Esther Feldman, by Terry & Marlene Pinsky

Bill Bernie, by Don & Carole Marger

Ruthe Meadow, by Don & Carole Marger

Joel Horenstein Fund

In memory of

Michael Horenstein, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

Frances Horenstein, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

James Stefin, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

Anna Stefin, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

Esther Feldman, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

DeNeal Feldman, by Linda & Steve Horenstein, Doug & Bonnie Deutsch

In honor of

Larry Wagenfeld's 90th birthday, by Linda & Steve Horenstein

Rav Glazer's Discretionary Fund

In memory of

Bert Lieberman, by Marilyn & Larry Klaben

Hyman Blum, by Ken & Lisa Blum

William Bernie, by Debby Oppenheimer

DeNeal Feldman, by David & Susan Joffe, Beth Adelman

Rinzler College Fund

In memory of

DeNeal Feldman, by Brenda Rinzler

Ritual Fund

In memory of

George Lewis, by Franklin & Cheryl Lewis

Leon Lapidus, by Susan & Stanley Katz

Claire Soifer, by Sue & Bruce Soifer
Stuart Rosenstein, by Cherie Rosenstein

Phyllis Charme, by Larry Charme

David Michaels, by Howard Michaels

Isadore Metz, by Mindy & Heather Metz

Charles Dorfman, by Saul Caplan

Ruthe Stein, by Lynn & David Goldenberg

Irving I. Stein, by Lynn & David Goldenberg

Hannah Miller, by Jamie Miller

Albert Miller, by Jamie Miller

Rudolf Ellenbogen, by Enrique & Ruth Ellenbogen

Ruth Cohen, by Paula Horwitz

Meyer Dreety, by Phil & Louisa Dreety

Mason Center, by Steve & Patty Wyke

Blanche Wyke, by Steve & Patty Wyke

Rebecca Center, by Steve & Patty Wyke

Frances Greenbaum Krochmal, by Jerry Krochmal

Bill Bernie, by David & Lynn Goldenberg

Sam & Sadie Berman Candy Fund

In memory of

Shirley Berman, by Clara Hochstein

Sanderow/Tannebaum Fund

In memory of

Louis Tannebaum, by Barbara Sanderow

Social Action Fund

In memory of

Victor Appelblatt, by Beverly Louis
Helen Rothberg, by Beverly Louis
Carole A. Rabinowitz, by Beverly Louis

In honor of

Meryl Hattenbach & Joe Beringer's wedding, by Eleanor Must
Brenda Philippi, by David and Sara Shuster

In the Beth Abraham Family

Thanks to the following Service Sponsors:

December 2– Beth Abraham in honor of our new members

December 9– Larry Wagenfeld & family in honor of Larry's 90th birthday; and The Mike & Marcie Sherman family in honor of the birth of Leora Ruth

December 16– Debbie & Bruce Feldman in memory of Debbie's parents Marvin and Lorraine Kobel

December 22– Deborah Oppenheimer in honor of all the kiddush volunteers

December 30– The Roden family in memory of sister and aunt LaRae Roden

Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in January:

January Birthdays

1	Jay Rothman
1	Marianne Ellman
3	Mindy Chudde
3	Peggy Shear
3	Charlotte Johnson
5	Kim Goldenberg
5	Judah Schwartz
5	Ruth Ellenbogen
7	Bonnie Beaman Rice
9	Ofir Ravin
13	Barbara Rothstein
14	Bert Pilder
15	Noah Levinson
15	Ann Berger
17	Bruce Feldman
19	Susan Chudde
19	Scott Liberman
21	Sue Ducker
24	Corrine Matusoff
24	James Nathanson
25	Barbara Mendelson
25	Steve Wagenfeld
25	Harvey Fiddler
26	Howard Rubenstein
30	Frieda Blum
31	Marilyn Klaben

January Anniversaries

1	Ron Bernard & Judith Woll
13	Steven & Penney Fraim
17	Enrique & Ruth Ellenbogen
19	Bruce Brenner & Sandy Sloane-Brenner

** If your birthday or anniversary is not listed above, please call the office so we can put it in the database

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Jay & Randi Rothman
Dmitriy & Sabina Shtilman
Doug & Theda Wagner

WE RECORD WITH GREAT SORROW THE PASSING OF:

Esther Feldman
Allen "Al" Levin



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS BETH ABRAHAM

Judah Schwartz and his fellow Scouts constructed two picnic tables for our patio area outside the kitchen, next to the playground. This was Judah's Eagle Scout project and will be beneficial to Beth Abraham and our religious school when we have programs outside.

Thank you Judah!

YAHREZEITS

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in Beth Abraham's database. If we have missed a name, please call the Synagogue office at (937) 293-9520 and let us know so we can update our records.

This January (Tevet - Shevat) we remember:

TEVET

Lillian Atkins
Renee Bennett
Helen Bernie
Lois Blank
Meilech Brill
Isadore Brotkin
Joyce Burick Swartzman
Phyllis Charme
Irving S. Cohen
Isaac Cohen
Sidney Douglas
Meyer Dreety
Abe Duberstein
Harry Dworkin
John Farnbacher
Anne Foreman
Sidney L. Gable
Minnie Gertzman
Samuel Golden
Edith Golden
Adele Marie Goldstein
Philip Goldstein
Celia Goodman
Harry Gordon
Sarah Govenar
James Weston Green
Shiela Gullixson
David Hochstein
Fannie Hyman
Lawrence Jaffe
Sam Jaffe
Charles Jenefsky
Carolyn Jenefsky
Tillie Kahn
Florence Katz
Frederick Kessler
Glenna Krakoff
Melissa S. Kuhr
Myra Land
Albert Lerner
James Levinson
Jim Levinson
Ida Lieberman
Lester Lind
Morris Lubin
Samuel Maimon
Oscar Mann
Sarah Mann
Bernard Maybruck
Abraham Miller
Harold Odell

Rubin Rabinowitz
Noah Solomon Raddy
Robert Rosengarten
Stuart Allen Rosenstein
Jacob Roth
Jenny Rothschild
Rose Schemensky
Ida Schiffer
Rosa Schwab
Barry M. Serotkin
Ann Sherman
Sylvia Siegle
Jake Simon
Robert Slavin
Leah G. Stein
Jeanette Wagenfeld
Charles Weisman
Pearl Weiss
Gerald Wilks
Sarah Worly

SHEVAT

Dora Abrams
William Abramson
Marvin L. Alpert
Bernard Apfel
Theodore Arnovitz
Jennie Auerbach
Celia Auerbach
Yetta Barsky
Leo Berman
Albert C. Bessel
Vera Bishov
Johanna Blake
Dov Baer Block
Minnie Blumberg
Arthur Carne
Louis Carne
Annette Cohen
Manuel Cohen
Myer Coplin
Frances Cunix
Erma Cunix
Eugene Dansker
David Davidson
Steve Duberstein
Sol Dubro
Isidore Ducker
Sidney S. Dunn
George Ehrenberg
Mary Ellman
Harley Ellman

Jullius Ellman
Dorothy Engelhardt
Herbert Ezekiel
Michael Ezekiel
Emma Field
Leah Fireman
Johanna Fish
Mimi Fisher
Stephen Friedberg
Israel Froug
Abraham Furst
Etta Gales
Rose Ganzer
Jack H. Garber
Henry Gardner
Irv Garlikov
Sarah Gaskowitz
Beverly Marx Goldberg
Goldie Goldstein
Norman H. Greenberg
Belle Grossman
Meyer Gurevitz
Benjamin Handler
Roy Harlan
Fannie Haskin
Edward R. Hattenbach
Florence Heller
Edith Kahn Hirschkatz
Alan Horwitz
Jule Hulman
Marcia Isaacs
Yetta Jacobson
Ishur L. Jacobson
Kate Kahn
Max Kantrovitz
Ben Katz
Paul Saeks Katz
Hyman Kisch
Hilda Kneller
Irving Koretsky
Isaac Kravetz
Thelma Kronish
Henry Krumholz
Marilyn Kuhr
Jacqui Kuhr
Sylvia Labovitch
Emanuel Landau
Bruce Lang
Charles Lapinsky
Chaya Shifra Larrison
Paul Lehman
Lillian Lehrner

Celia Lepsky
Bradley Jonathan Levin
Sarah Liebman
William Liss
Sophye Moskowitz Locke
Morris Louick
Mildred Lynn
Leonard Magilvy
Esther Mann
Sadie Mardy
Frances Marwil
Leslie M. Mayerson
Harry Mendelson
Zimmel Miller
Sidney Miller
Sarah Miller
Jack Moody
Berko Moscowitz
Solomon Moskowitz
Bennet Neiman
Richard Nierenberg
Elizabeth Niren
Mildred Newman
Oppenheimer
Ida Oscherwitz
Cynthia Page
Bebe Gross Perlberg
Ruben Pilder
Bertram Plotnick
Beila Polichenka
Belle Press
Rachael Pressman
Harold Raizen
Wolfe Ramze
Nathan Reingold
Elsie Remick
Anna Resler
Rabbi Jacob Richman
Florence Rinzler
Irwin Roberts
Arthur Rosenblatt
Margaret Rosenblum
Carrie Rosengarten
Irvin Rosenstein
Nicholas Rubin
Edward Rubin
Aaron Rubinett
Leona C. Sachs
Howard Sanderow
Anna Sanzon
Hyman Schear
Martha Schear

Fred Scheuer
Ruth Scheuer
Max Schoemann
Martha Schriber
Florence B. Schwartz
Saul Schwartz
Ann Shainman
Phyllis Shane
Gayle Kuhr Sharpe
Harry Sherman
Minnie Shilling
Maureen Shuller
Abraham Shutly
Rose Sians
Julius Simon
Jacob Sivitz
Leah Solomon
Morris Spiegel
Ruth Spialter
Julian Spurling
Matilda Spurling
Diana Stayman
Ilse Stein
David Stein
Marilyn Stone
William Suson
Meyer Sussman
Lena Tannenbaum
Anna Teisch
Dorothy Tingle
Annie Tomchin
Rayzel Tracht
Ida Valensky
Mitchell Vangrov
Henrietta Waldman
Frank Wallace
Jennie Weine
Sylvia Weinstein
Harry Winer
Theodore Winters
Pearl Wollin
Fannie Yanishefsky
Abe Zisenwine
Frieda Zusman



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

HANUKKAH HIGHLIGHTS:



CHINESE DINNER & A MOVIE:



From the President's Desk...

Scott Liberman, Beth Abraham President

Strengthening unity: Beth Abraham Synagogue's Gratitude for External Support



Considering the October 7th tragedy in Israel and the increase in antisemitism in the world, it may

sometimes seem like we are alone. However, as we head into the new year, I am delighted to share with you a sampling of the support that Beth Abraham has received from external organizations during these difficult times. Letters from various organizations have made their way to our clergy, our office, and eventually to my desk, and I would be remiss not to mention such support so that you all know about it.

One church states, "as a congregation, we seek to add our voices and actions to denouncing such hatred in any form. . . we are compelled by our faith to say something and do something to show our support for neighboring Jewish communities here in Dayton." Another writes, "we would like to express to you and your congregation our love, concern, sympathy and support." "We

pray for the safety and well-being of the local members of your community," writes yet another local church. And a local elected official writes that "our community, renowned for its diversity and inclusive spirit, stands united against any form of discrimination or hatred." Additionally, the office has received personal letters, cards, and phone calls from local citizens expressing their support of our efforts and condemnation of the antisemitic hatred that exists.

Beth Abraham has always been a beacon of faith, community, and resilience, and it is heartening to see our shared values echoed in the support extended by many external partners. These collaborations have not only bolstered our ability to fulfill our mission, but have personally meant a lot to me, to know that we are not alone on our journey.

Antisemitism remains a harsh reality that we, unfortunately, confront, but let us find strength in the support that surrounds us. Together with our external allies, we stand firm against discrimination and work towards fostering a world where tolerance and

understanding prevail.

In the spirit of gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to these organizations that have aligned themselves with the values and goals of Beth Abraham Synagogue. Their dedication to our cause fuels our determination to create a harmonious and inclusive community.

As we move forward, let us carry this spirit of unity into our daily lives. Let us engage with one another, embrace diversity, and continue to build bridges of understanding. By doing so, we fortify the very foundations upon which our synagogue stands.

I just wanted to make sure you all were aware of these outside letters and wishes of support. In closing, I invite each of you to take a moment to reflect on the strength of our community and the shared commitment that binds us together.

Your continued participation, support, and engagement in Beth Abraham are integral to the continued success of our synagogue and the understanding that we are not alone.



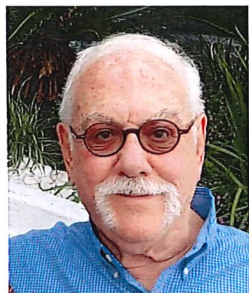
Beth Abraham members joined other local community members in helping with JCRC's "Macca-beets" project at the Dayton Foodbank in December.

Library News — Off the Shelf

Allan Spetter



In *Bright Star of Exile: Jacob Adler and the Yiddish Theater*, author



Lulla Rosenfeld tells the fascinating story of one of the most important characters in an earlier era of Jewish history.

Rosenfeld begins with a chapter adorably titled Yankele, as Jacob would be known in Yiddish when a young boy. Born into a family whose financial status varied from time to time, in 1855 in Odessa, Jacob and every other Jew in Russia had hopes for a better life. That same year Czar Alexander II came to the throne and began by improving life for the Jews.

Odessa, almost certainly the most cosmopolitan city in all of Russia, offered numerous opportunities for jobs or even careers. Before Adler chose a job or career, he actually served in the Russian army for a few months in 1877. About the same time, an extremely energetic young man, Avrom Goldfaden, overcame various obstacles to launch Yiddish theater in various cities and towns in Romania. He might be called the Jewish P.T. Barnum. He never gave up trying to recruit singers and/or dancers or individuals who could actually act.

Goldfaden discovered the young Sigmund Mogulesko, still only a teenager, born in Romania, an incredibly talented singer who would evolve into a star in various comedies. Goldfaden still needed someone who could play the lead in a serious drama. Jacob Adler joined the company in June, 1879, still only 24 years old. He would go on to become almost certainly the greatest star in the entire history of Yiddish theater.

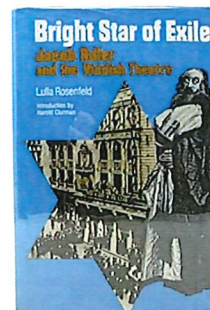
Goldfaden had found his "leading man." A rival company soon emerged, however, typical of the early years of Yiddish theater. At first, Adler struggled against the competition. Meanwhile Jewish history would change forever with the assassination of Czar Alexander II in March, 1881. The Russian masses believed that the Jews had been behind the plot against the czar and pogroms, or riots, against the Jews took place all across Russia.

In the midst of the turmoil, Adler finally played the leading role in the best-known play of the Yiddish theater, "Uriel Acosta," based on the life of a 17th century Portuguese philosopher who rejected all organized religion. Adler became a star. The author says that instantly Adler became a legend. At the same time, the new czar, Alexander III, launched a nationwide

crackdown on Jewish life. In August, 1883 he banned Yiddish theater.

A flood of Jews began to leave Russia. Most ended up in the United States, but some went no further than Great Britain rather than go so far from home. Adler and several members of the theatrical company arrived in Great Britain in December, 1883. Upper class Jews, English speaking and thoroughly assimilated, wanted nothing to do with this band of Yiddish speakers. Support came from many who barely survived in the rugged capitalistic economy.

Once the company began to perform, the same Jews, working class and small shopkeepers, spread the word of Adler's incredible talent. They called him Adler Great Eagle (Adler means eagle in Yiddish or German). That name stuck with him throughout his life. The author describes the time in London as a sort of a training ground for the company. At last, they left for the United States in February, 1887 to begin what the author calls the Golden Years of Yiddish theater.



RAV READS BOOK CLUB THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 4:30 PM

The next session of the Rav Reads Book Club will focus on *Providence & Power: Jewish Statesmanship in Esther*. The group will meet on **Thursday, January 25 at 4:30 pm on Zoom**. To register, receive the Zoom link and the reading, please email bas@bethabrahamdayton.org.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Irene Fishbein

Many thanks to all of our Men's Club and Sisterhood mobile mensches who helped deliver the Hanukkah treats to our local members: Beth Adelman, Elaine Arnovitz, Maryann Bernstein, Dena Briskin, Annie Chambers, Alan & Judy Chesen, Ted Cooper, Doug & Bonnie Deutsch, Irene, Shana & Tamar Fishbein, Philip & Julie Goldstein, Hindy Gruber, Meryl Hattenbach, Marilyn Klaben, Cheryl Lewis, Ann Liberman, Jeff & Connie Roberts, Allan Spetter & Claudia Birch, Bob & Suzanne Thum, Louise Tincer, Ralph & Diane Williams, & Mindi Wynne. Extra thanks to Liz Musin for leading the crew on packing day. As always, this program is successful due to our wonderful volunteers!

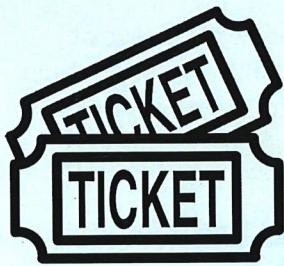
Our Beth Abraham Sisterhood Mah Jongg group decided we needed a name. Everyone had an opportunity to submit suggestions with many fun & creative submissions received. After voting for our favorites, I'm happy to announce the Beth Abraham Sisterhood Mah Jongg group will forever be known as: The MAHJshuganahs! We are having lots of fun introducing new players to the game & playing with friends of all skill levels. All are welcome. January Mah Jongg dates are 1/11 and 1/25 from 1:00 – 4:00PM. Please RSVP to Liz Musin.



MEN'S CLUB NEWS

Irwin Dumtschin

Annual Raffle Fund Raiser Event: The Men's Club is in the process of putting together its annual major fund raiser event, and still looking to acquire raffle prizes. If you or someone you know can donate any retail merchandise or professional services as a raffle prize, please contact Irwin Dumtschin. Be on the lookout for your raffle tickets later in the month! The raffle drawings will take place during the Men's Club annual Deli-Dinner and Movie program to be held on Sunday evening, April 7th. More details to come!



Rick Pinsky Sunday Brunch Speaker Series: The 2nd half of the brunch speaker series resumes in February.

WWW 2024: Save the date for our annual World Wide Wrap service on February 11th (Super Bowl Sunday).

Men's Club Monthly Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 15th at 7:30 PM. Our meetings are open to all. Look for the Zoom link in the upcoming News & Notes.



Men's Club and Sisterhood volunteers did a fine job of assembling and distributing Hanukkah gift bags to local members.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 5:30 PM

Rhythm 'N' Ruach is our upbeat music-filled Shabbat experience for families, held from 5:30-6:15 PM the second Friday of each month. This month we meet on Friday, January 12. Join Cantor Raizen to usher in Shabbat with songs, prayers, instruments, movement, dance, yoga and more. Everyone is welcome!

Rabbi	Aubrey L. Glazer, PhD.
Cantor	Andrea S. Raizen
President	Scott Liberman
Vice President	Matthew Arnovitz
Vice President	Tara Feiner
Vice President	Beverly Louis
Vice President	Julie Liss-Katz
Treasurer	Alan Chesen
Secretary	Irene Fishbein
Men's Club President	Irwin Dumtschin
Sisterhood President	Irene Fishbein
Chevra Kadisha President	Ted Cooper
Rabbi Emeritus	Samuel B. Press, D.D.
Cantor Emeritus	Jerome B. Kopmar, D. Mus.

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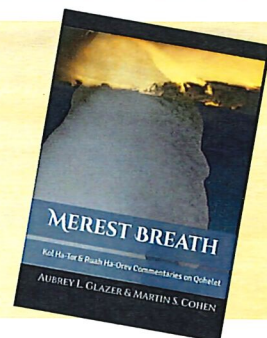
LIVESTREAM LINK

The link for all livestreamed services through StreamSpot is:
<https://venue.streamspot.com/72a802ed>

The printing of this publication is funded by private donations

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10:30 AM RAV GLAZER ON THE "BOOK NOOK"

Rav Glazer will present his book *Merest Breath* on **Sunday 12/31**, live at 10:30am on WYSO 91.3 FM's "Book Nook," hosted by Yellow Springs legend, Vick Mickunas. You can tune in on the radio, or by going to www.wyso.org/show/book-nook.



Times for Shabbat Candle Lighting & Services

Online service links can be found at www.bethabrahamdayton.org, Facebook, or in your weekly News& Notes email

Friday, January 5		Friday, January 19	
Candle Lighting	5:08 pm	Candle Lighting	5:23 pm
Saturday, January 6		Saturday, January 20	
Morning Service	9:30 am	Morning Service	9:30 am
Candle Lighting	6:11 pm	Havdalah	6:25 pm
Friday, January 12		Friday, January 26	
Candle Lighting	5:15 pm	Candle Lighting	5:31 pm
Saturday, January 13		Saturday, January 27	
Morning Service	9:30 am	Morning Service	9:30 am
Havdalah	6:18 pm	Havdalah	6:32 pm



Lighting hanukkiah at our Hanukkah celebration.