

Drawing by Marilyn Margolies

Temple Israel of the Poconos

Edition 639

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Tevet / Shevat 5778

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BOARD MEETING
SUNDAY, Jan. 7
10:00 a.m.

They Knew it Was Wrong (but they did it anyway)

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They say that if the ancient Sanhedrin had ruled to put someone to death for a capital offense even once in seventy years, it was known as a "bloody Sanhedrin." The bar was set so high that few could actually qualify for execution. Mob stonings may fly in Bible films or in modern Tehran newsreels, but historically were nearly impossible to carry out.

How so? The Talmud teaches us that two witnesses were required, and were carefully grilled on the minutest details to determine any contradictions in testimony. The law against Edim Zomemim required that corrupt witnesses would receive the same punishment as the falsely accused, when found to be conspiring maliciously.

Circumstantial evidence was inadmissible. And not only were two witnesses required, but the witnesses were required to not only have warned the accused that what they were about to do was against the law, but also remind the accused of the punishment were he to be convicted. And not only must the witnesses have been actively engaged in warning the accused, the accused would have been required to have audibly said, "I know but I don't care."

The refrain, "I know but I don't care," is alive and well and living in our daily headlines. McKesson Corporation, the manufacturer of billions and billions of opioid pills, knows of the dangers of the opioid crisis and the presence of bad players in its distribution networks, and yet looks the other way, in the name of soaring profits. More than a hundred Americans die each day from opioid addiction and overdosing. They know. But they do it anyway.

Same for the tobacco industry. After decades of denying any causal connection between smoking and cancer, and between nicotine and addiction, they persist in trying to win over new smokers to replace the ranks of their late former customers. They know smoking is addictive. They know it leads to fatal cancers and to lung disease. They know. But in spite of their knowledge, they do it anyway. Maybe it's time for a new "bloody Sanhedrin."

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Rabbi Melman's Office Hours:
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 — 12:00
Wednesday 6:00—7:00
By appointment ONLY

Please provide Barbara with any information that is missing for you in the above grid. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT Dr. Sandra Alfonsi

From time to time I like to share with all of you an exceptional literary creation by my dear friend Rabbi Avi Schwartz, who lives in Zichron Yaakov, Israel. A FATHER AND MOTHER THAT FORGOT tells a story with a definite message. In some ways, it has the feeling of a Fable, such as those written by Aesop or Jean La Fontaine. Both Aesop and La Fontaine utilize animals to convey morality or lack of morality. Each has both animal and human characters entwined. Rabbi Avi has chosen to differentiate between farm animals, non-thinking basically gentle, harmless creatures of Hashem, but devoid of Hashem, and beasts, personifying all of the sins of bestiality. For Rabbi Avi, the offspring of the two farm animals is tantamount to the Fallen Archangel. He is no longer one of Hashem's gentle creatures, but rather a beast totally antithetical to Hashem. And yet, the seed of Hashem, planted by Hashem in each of us at birth, remains alive, as is Rabbi Avi's belief. It is what saves this piece. It is what teaches the moral of this story and it is what gives it the feeling of a Fable.

The SHEMA ...the force of these words...the declaration of every Jew as he wakes and as he goes to bed. The declaration of the dying Jew as he prepares to return to Hashem. The words of the SHEMA, the seeds planted within us that make us different from the farm animal and from the beast. It is what saves both the parents and the child, returning them to Hashem.

The 13th year, the Bar Mitzvah year of a son who does not know and parents who suddenly remember. . The final breaths of the father who must remember and the quest of the son to help his father remember before death overtakes him. Potent symbolism. Amazing symbolism. The genius of this Poet. Rabbi Avi's words resonate within me as an educator, as a President of a shul, as a Jewish communal leader faced with and by assimilation on every level. As he believes, so I believe that Hashem's presence is inside of each of us, perhaps buried deeply...but always there. And that like the force of the SHEMA, it will appear when least expected.

His piece is not about denominations of Judaism. Nor is it about religion per se. It is about assimilation and the loss of spirituality. It is about the loss of Jewish tradition and the possible loss of Jewish souls. Most important, this piece is about the survival of Hashem's spark embodied in the SHEMA. This story is the story of the pintele yid, that tiny part of the Jew that never quits—the little spark of Jewishness that is indestructible. No matter how hard that person tries to leave his Jewishness, there is a part of him that just can't get away.

A FATHER AND MOTHER THAT FORGOT BY Rabbi Avi Schwartz

A boy once grew up and became a man. But during his journey to become a man he forgot he was a human being, a man. He so forgot that he eventually thought he was a farm animal.

Anyhow, one day he got married to a woman, who also had forgotten she was a human being. She too thought she was a farm animal.

After a year or two they had a child. But since both thought they were farm animals they taught their child to be a farm animal too.

Then one day, about 13 years later, after the child was born, all sat around the table. Both parents suddenly turned to the child and unexpectedly remembered they were human beings. But when they attempted to tell their child its true identity it was too late. You see, he never knew that he was a human being to begin with. And so he was lost to his true greatness, to be: a human being, a light unto the world, a beacon of: hope, moral teachings, spirituality, goodness, happiness, and holiness.

Unfortunately the child grew up and assimilated into a culture of materialism, barbarism, cruelty, promiscuity, and utter selfishness. He was no longer even a farm animal. He was a beast.

Continued on page 8

Ask The Rabbi.....© 2017 by Rabbi Baruch Melman

Dear Rabbi,

My mother-in-law used to scream at me if I whistled! She said G-d's name is a whistle and we're not allowed to use it. Is this true??? I always thought a whistle was akin to music???

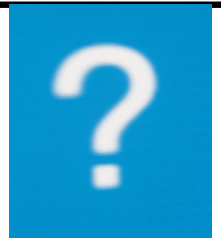
Puckered

Dear Puckered,

Your mother-in-law is just wrong. In and of itself, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with whistling. Like with all things, it depends on how it is used. To whistle a pleasant melody is fine. But to whistle to get the attention of a girl or food server is not so fine. It is actually rude. But I have heard it said we should not whistle because non-Jews whistle. But that is ridiculous. If non-Jews eat breakfast, we should therefore NOT eat breakfast?

Perhaps she mixed it up with not looking at a rainbow in the sky. A security guard in Israel once warned me not to look at a rainbow after I had pointed out how beautiful it was. She said that the Kabbalah forbids it, because since God is Light, to look at the colors of the spectrum is to look at God's nakedness. I found that very interesting, yet faulty. We do not learn halacha (Jewish law) from Kabbalah. The Torah itself says that when we SEE the rainbow in the sky, we are to remember God's Covenant with Noah, that never again would He bring a flood to cover the Earth and wipe out all existence (Genesis 9:15).

Many superstitions have taken root over many generations. But it doesn't make them true. So whistling is fine. I am even whistling a nice tune as I write these words!



Hebrew School News

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS
THE HEBREW SCHOOL JEWISH LEARNING CIRCLE

Mrs. Debbie Smith, Administrative Director
Rabbi Baruch Melman, Principal.

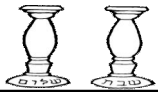
We just celebrated the Bat Mitzvah of Lily Harter, who has been with our school since she was quite small. She chanted her haftarah flawlessly. We are all so rightfully proud of all our children who rise up through the ranks.

In other news, we are still basking in the warmth and glow of our Chanuka celebration, and now it's on to Tu Bishvat!

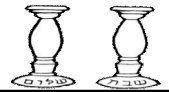
Do you know any young children who may be ready to join our school?
It is both educational and fun. Just get in touch!

TUESDAY	January 2	5:00—7:00
TUESDAY	January 9	5:00—7:00
TUESDAY	January 16	5:00—7:00
TUESDAY	January 23	5:00—7:00
TUESDAY	January 30	5:00—7:00



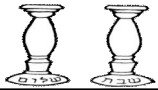


January Yahrzeit List



January 1	Tevet 14	Irving Tremper
January 2	Tevet 15	Ben Hayden
January 3	Tevet 16	Ferdinando Alfonsi Rose Cohn
January 5	Tevet 18	Benjamin Brown Eva Cohen Kate Philippsberg Pearl Sussman-Factor
January 6	Tevet 19	Shirley Irene Glucroft Carol Green
January 7	Tevet 20	Adolph Glantz
January 8	Tevet 21	Rita Merkin Bernbaum David Cahn Zalman Gluck David Rosenstein
January 9	Tevet 22	Pearl Ruth Abeloff Oscar Feld Edward Yark
January 10	Tevet 23	Ethel Katz Mendel ben Nosson Zapolsky
January 11	Tevet 24	Samuel Sorger
January 12	Tevet 25	Frank Frankel Bella Hymowitz Mendal Porcelan Morris Rothstein Marion Wertheimer
January 13	Tevet 26	Lillian Levine
January 15	Tevet 28	Isadore K. Dortort Greta Philippsberg Arthur Z. Zimmerman

January 16	Tevet 29	Max Alt Sophie Pollan
January 17	Shevat 01	Maurice Cantor Daniel Franzel
January 18	Shevat 02	Bernard Forster Leo Liebman
January 20	Shevat 04	Herman Berman Abraham Gilette Thelma Reiter
January 21	Shevat 05	Marcia Sagofsky Esther Zubow
January 22	Shevat 06	Katherine Anderson Sam Block Rebecca Cohen Mary Merkin
January 23	Shevat 07	Rhoda Schuchman
January 25	Shevat 09	Louis Katz Birdie Steir
January 26	Shevat 10	Ida Odzer Bernice Pollan Louis Rosenblum
January 28	Shevat 12	Davora Ehrlich Minnie Ehrlichman
January 29	Shevat 13	Regina Brown Leo Cabelly Rose Rubin Glanz Rebecca Lax
January 30	Shevat 14	Miriam Cahn Simon Krawitz Ruth Newman



February Yahrzeit List



February 1	Shevat 16	Dorothy Reiter	February 17	Adar 02	Lillian Berkhof Ruth Josephs Meyer Woodnick
February 3	Shevat 18	Kathryn Petie Cohen Rachel Forster Esther Iskowitz Harry Magnes Gertrude Summers	February 18	Adar 03	Lenore Gorman
February 4	Shevat 19	Martha Manley	February 19	Adar 04	Gertrude Kimmel George A. Zussman Theodore Cahn
February 5	Shevat 20	Barney Katon Morris Zimmerman	February 20	Adar 05	Gertrude Bodenstein Ida Jolley Anne Tremper
February 7	Shevat 22	Julius Rabinowitz	February 21	Adar 06	Hilda C Brown Yetta Silverman
February 8	Shevat 23	Mamie Farber Isaac Yenofsky	February 22	Adar 07	Rose Dwoskin Solomon Gabin Irving Jacobs
February 9	Shevat 24	Gertrude Bodenstein	February 23	Adar 08	Jack Goliger Samuel Libfield Rose Summers Benjamin Wilkins Richard Moskovitz
February 10	Shevat 25	Floyd Crown, Sr Benjamin Kimmel Sylvia Zacher	February 24	Adar 09	Rose Berger Morris Cantor Emil Hertz Harold Levin Bernard G. Levy Milton Miller
February 11	Shevat 26	Rose Beckenstein Fannier Blick Sarah Getz Harold Givlin David Vogel	February 25	Adar 10	Lisbeth Breslauer Harry Forster Nathan Garfinkel Hannah Miller Ruth Rosenthal Pearl Yark
February 12	Shevat 27	Marion Bornstein Jacob Isaac Yevgeny Trofimov	February 26	Adar 11	Mae Block
February 13	Shevat 28	Marilyn Margolies	February 27	Adar 12	Harry Kleinfeld
February 14	Shevat 29	Sarah Brown Florence Edelstien Samuel Land	February 28	Adar 13	Barbara Zieffert Dora Chamock Frances Tremper
February 15	Shevat 30	Chaim Berlin Harold Cheslow Katie Goldman Harry Krumper Victor Taylor			
February 16	Adar 01	Sadie Nadelman Ruth Parish Steve Philippsberg			

Continued from page 3, President's Message

How very tragic the story of Jacob, the Jewish child that forgot his essence.

Then one day as Jacob's father lay dying he called Jacob and said, "I want to declare my identity. But I only remember seven words of the eleven, Hear O'Israel the L-rd is our G-d. You must find the remaining four."

Time was running out quickly.

As Jacob was searching and racing throughout all the neighborhood he was crying out the seven words.

"Does anyone know the other four words. Please. Help me. Please."

Just then for the first time in his life he looked up and for some reason, a reason he did not understand, he cried and yelled heavenward, "Hear O'Israel the L-rd is our G-d."

And that moment Heaven scrolled across the blue sky, "The L-rd is One."

Quickly Jacob ran back to his dying father.

As he entered the room he saw his father muster his last strength and say in a quiet whisper, "Hear O'Israel the L-rd is Our G-d"

"Dad." said Jacob, "The four remaining words are, 'The L-rd is One'."

"Yes", said the Father. "I remember now. Hear O' Israel the L-rd is Our G-d, the L-rd is One."

And with his last breath he remembered who he was.
And now his son knows too.

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

General Donations

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Herschlag
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Waite
Merle Turitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Herschlag

Yahrzeit Donations

Sam Newman in memory of his sons
Jonathan and David.

HESSED FUND

Hessed is a Hebrew word meaning kindness and a reaching out to other people.

It is the way you can express sympathy, warm wishes or
celebrate simchas for any one within or outside the Jewish
community. If you would like something included here:

Call Marcie Rabinowitz at 629-2994.

Please leave all the information on the machine so Marcie doesn't need to call you back.

OR

Better than telephone, is contacting Marcie by e-mail at yidkydz@gmail.net. That's the best!

If you would like us to send a card to a **person who is not a Temple Israel person, you must include the recipient's address** when giving Marcie the information. Cards are usually sent within three days of the request.

To Dr. Jeffrey Bair

Congratulations and best wishes on your retirement.

**From,
Art Glantz**

To Sam Newman

**In memory of your two beloved sons, Jonathan
and David.**

From,

To Herb Rosen

In memory of his brother David.

**From,
Sam and Maryjane Newman**

To Irving Effross

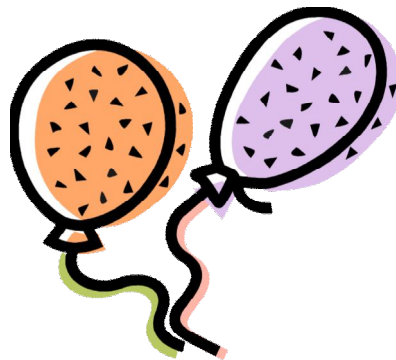
In celebration of your birthday.

**From,
Sam and Maryjane Newman**



January Anniversaries	
January 19	Caron & Charles Manley
January 26	Rebecca & Russel Bear

January Birthdays	
January 01	Steve Goldstein Cindy Blake
January 09	Myra Roseman
January 16	Rosa Brownstein
January 17	Ivan Margolies
January 18	Turey Rodriguez
January 24	Nancy Greenbarg
January 28	Marc Wolfe Michelle Star
January 30	Marshall Ruben
January 31	Jesse Mills



If you are celebrating a milestone year, whether it be birthday or anniversary, please let me know so others may celebrate with you.

Contact: Marcie Rabinowitz
570-629-2994 yidkydz@gmail.com

**WE ALL HAVE SIMCHAS AND NACHES IN OUR LIFE
CELEBRATE AND COMMEMORATE WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING...**

SEND WARM THOUGHTS

Give Marcie Rabinowitz a call at 570-629-2994 or e-mail her at yidkydz@gmail.com and let someone know you're thinking of them. For a small contribution to the **Hessed Fund**, Marcie will send a card wishing a Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Mazel Tov, Get Well or Condolences. A notice will appear in this bulletin, as well. When you call, please leave all the information needed.

TREE OF LIFE AND MEMORIALS

Add a leaf to the Tree of Life to celebrate births, birthdays, marriages, bar and bat mitzvahs, or any other special event for a minimum contribution of \$150. Remember loved ones with a Memorial Plaque at a minimum contribution of \$600 for members, \$850 for non-members.

Contact the Temple Office at 570-421-8781.

ENDOWMENT FUND

It's always a great time to make a contribution. Make your check out to "Temple Israel."
Another thought to consider, remember Temple Israel in your will.

Call the Temple office at 570-421-8781 or tipoc@ptd.net

**Honor or Remember Someone Special
with a Bookplate**

A bookplate can be placed in a Siddur, the weekly prayer book we use every Friday evening and Shabbat morning, or in a machzor, the prayer book which is used on the High Holidays. Remember a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, bnei mitzvah or any other occasion you want to note for a relative or friend. You can also place a dedication in someone's memory. A nameplate with the donor, recipient, and occasion will be inserted. The minimum donation is \$50.



Contact Herb Rosen, 424-1161, or at herbr12@ptd.net.

Do you need a Mi Sheberach Recited?

When you can't make services, but would like a prayer said on behalf of someone important to you, please don't hesitate to call the synagogue and leave a message on the Temple answering machine for Rabbi Melman so that your prayers will be included in our services.

NOW IT'S EASIER THAN EVER BEFORE TO SPONSOR AN
ONEG OR A KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

YOU CAN CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, LIFE
CYCLE EVENT OR JUST BECAUSE.....

**TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS
KOSHER KITCHEN ANNOUNCES**

SHABBAT ONEG AND KIDDUSH LUNCHEONS

Friday Night Oneg: \$75

Package includes cakes, cookies, fresh fruit in season, hot coffee, milk, sweeteners, seltzer and cold beverages.

Shabbat Kiddush-Luncheon: \$125

Package includes 4 different salads, veggie platter, fresh fruits of the season, assorted cakes and/or cookies, hot coffee, milk, sweeteners, seltzer/cold beverages.

Each package is priced for 25 people.

Other special request items (including lox) are available upon request and for an additional fee; please contact me to design your own special event. For scheduling, availability and more information contact: Lois LaBarca at 421-6103

Sponsored Kiddush Luncheons must be arranged at least 2 weeks before the requested date. Dates must be given to Lois by phone or email and NOT during or following Shabbat Services.

**FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.....
we offer you a challenge!**

*We need everyone to help with this. Surely you know individuals and families who have no affiliation with a Synagogue.
Encourage them to become members of our Temple Israel Family!*

**If every family brings in one individual or family,
think of the possibilities!**

*At Temple events, be they regular Shabbat Services or a social occasion,
introduce yourself to anyone you don't recognize. You'll make new friends
and assist us in enlarging our family.*

YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR SUCCESS!!

For information please contact:

Dr. Sandra Alfonsi
223-7062
sanalfonsi@aol.com

or Temple Israel 421-8781

Please leave a phone number so that we may return your call.

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 14 tevet	2 15 tevet Hebrew School 5:00—7:00 p.m.	3 16 tevet	4 17 tevet	5 18 tevet	6 19 tevet Kiddush/luncneon sponsored by Dr. Sandra Alfonsi
7 20 tevet Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8 21 tevet	9 22 tevet Hebrew School 5:00—7:00 p.m.	10 23 tevet	11 24 tevet	12 24 tevet	13 25 tevet Kiddush/luncneon sponsored by Suzanne and Barry Tremper
14 27 tevet	15 28 tevet	16 29 tevet Hebrew School 5:00—7:00 p.m. 16	17 1 shevat	18 2 shevat	19 3 shevat	20 4 shevat
21 5 shevat	22 6 shevat	23 7 shevat Hebrew School 5:00—7:00 p.m.	24 8 shevat	25 9 shevat	26 10 shevat	27 11 shevat
28 12 shevat	29 13 shevat	30 14 shevat Hebrew School 5:00—7:00 p.m.	31 15 shevat			

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Now on the web at: www.templeisraelofthepoconos.org

FIRST CLASS

All submissions are subject to review by the editorial committee.

Please submit all articles for consideration to:

Barbara Rosenberg

570-236-7544 or barb74@ptd.net

**PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER:
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 19**

Temple Israel of the Poconos is located at 711 Wallace Street in Stroudsburg. Friday evening services begin at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!