

HAKOL

The Home of Traditional Judaism in Dallas

FROM A DISTANCE by Rabbi Shawn Zell

I was in all likelihood a pre-teenager, when I first heard the phrase “nice from far, but far from nice.” My father was using it to describe a paint job on the exterior of the home of friends of our family. Although I’ve used the phrase countless times since then, little did I realize that there would come a day, when I would use the first part of that adage, “nice from far” to describe the scenario that occurred seven weeks after our ancestors left Egypt, as they prepared to receive the Torah, HaShem’s greatest gift to the human race.

“Mark off a boundary all around the mountain,” HaShem tells Moshe. “Make sure the Children of Israel stand at a distance from Mount Sinai. Whoever touches the mountain will die.” In addition to the fear factor instilled by HaShem, I cannot help but feel, that there was also an awe factor. I cannot help but feel, that HaShem wanted to impress upon our ancestors that “familiarity breeds contempt.” One of the many differences that ought to set humans apart from animals, is the ability to distinguish between public and private. One of the many flaws within contemporary society, in my opinion, is that the lines of demarcation between public and private have become so blurred, that quite often they are indistinguishable. HaShem wished to emphasize that Mount Sinai was “private” and therefore off-limits to the Children of Israel. The Children of Israel (the public) were permitted to gaze upon this momentous mountain, provided it was from a distance.



“Do not draw near a woman,” continues HaShem, prior to the actual event of the giving of the Torah. A linguist, I’m not. But “hands-on” is an expression that was introduced to American culture barely 50 years ago. “Hands-on” was first used while touting the advantages of the computer. Usage of “hands-on” has spread to countless other areas of our culture and has pervaded all areas of life. On the other hand, our culture has pretty much banished or tossed aside its converse “hands-off,” an expression that predates “hands-on” by over 150 years. And that’s truly a shame, in that “hands-off” served as an excellent reminder that the setting of boundaries is essential for the existence and maintenance of a healthy society. Once upon a time, we knew that when it came to the opposite sex, it was “hands-off” – even our own wives in certain circumstances. If we truly want to appreciate something or someone, it’s important to know that it is not available to us on demand. Quite often, appreciation is best experienced from a distance.

“All men are created equal” is perhaps among the most misread axioms of American society. Most of us erroneously zero in on the word “equal.” In doing so, the word “cre-

ated” receives short shrift. If no two people are alike (hence the term individual) other than those inalienable rights due them, then in what way are they equal? Why do all who are in a courtroom rise when the judge enters? Why is there specific protocol when addressing the ruling monarch of England? We are created equal in that – provided we come into this world healthy – each one of us has an equal right to live. Beyond that we are not equal. There are those who are accorded respect, yet do not deserve that respect; there are those who receive promotions, yet do not deserve them. Alternately, there are those who never receive the respect or recognition they deserve just as there are those who never receive the promotions that they eminently deserve and have worked so hard for. Perhaps now, we can better understand HaShem instructing Moshe: “...ascend together with Aaron. But the other Kohanim...” Perhaps, we can better understand that it takes a trained eye to see differences that others cannot. And that to most of us, these differences aren’t really that important after all, especially when seen from a distance.

Come the festival of Shavuot, let us realize the difference between private and public, let us reintroduce the importance of “hands-off” into society, and let us admire how very different we are as individuals. And once we have done that, let us take a step back and appreciate seeing things from a distance.

Rabbi Zell

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Just as the Covid-19 virus pandemic has greatly altered the way we live our lives, it has also greatly altered the way Tiferet Israel conducts business, religious services, and classes. Because of the need for social distancing, for the first time in 127 years the process for election of officers and trustees had to change from a congregational meeting to a safer alternative – in this case, email. The results are in and I want to thank you for the confidence you have placed in us to oversee the business of our synagogue. Thank you to the officers who have agreed to serve another two-year term, the trustees who will be continuing to serve, and to our new trustees. To Stuart Roosth, who has served these past two years, in addition to a previous term as president, go our appreciation for his guidance and leadership. Thank you Rabbi Zell for staying in touch with us via virtual methods and for always being available. I cannot think of a more dedicated group that I am privileged to work with.

Tiferet Israel has been a meaningful and important part of our family life for many years. Ery served as President for three terms and now I am honored to be elected as President and will serve the congregation to the best of my ability. Your ideas and participation are encouraged as new programs and events are planned, once this pandemic is behind us.

Our members have developed friendships that have become long lasting and we are known in the community as being a warm and welcoming congregation. At this time, Tiferet's Mitzvah Callers are reaching out to all members. Every member is called every two weeks to let them know that although they may be temporarily isolated, they are not alone, and we are here for them.

Jennifer continues to work diligently to keep things going. She is working from both her home and the office as necessary, and we appreciate her flexibility. Salaries for our full and part-time staff have continued at their current level. If you are able to, paying dues and/or contributions would be helpful at this time.

I look forward to personally welcoming you once we are back to normal. Unfortunately, no one knows when that will be, so stay well and stay safe. May Hashem continue to watch over us and give us strength to continue our good work.

B'Shalom,



Shirley Rovinsky
President, Tiferet Israel

srovinsky@aol.com
cell: 214-929-4809
home: 214-739-6181

Welcome Coleen Fox - Bookkeeper



Tiferet Israel is delighted to welcome Coleen Fox as our new part-time Bookkeeper.

Coleen is originally from Michigan, the only daughter of 6 children and proud aunt to several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great nephews. She has lived in Texas since 2003. She is married to Steve Fox, who has a daughter, a granddaughter and grandson. Coleen enjoys reading, going to baseball

and hockey games, travel, and spending time with family and friends.

"I am enjoying meeting the people of Tiferet and would like to thank those I've met for the warm welcome," Coleen said.

Coleen is in the office on Tuesdays, while we navigate the Covid requirements, but will maintain regular office hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in the future. You can email her at accounting@tiferetisrael.org or call 214-691-3611x3.

May Birthdays:

May 1: Mindy Tobolowsky	May 17: Sury Sacher
May 2: Harold Weingarten Max Shultz	May 20: Yael Schuller Davi Hopkovitz
May 4: Micah Romaner	May 22: Andrew Broder
May 5: Dr. Allan Shuklin	May 24: Bonnie Whitman
May 7: Faye Lavi	May 27: James Schultz Gamaiel Escamilla
May 9: Simon Marcus	May 28: Steven Blasnik
May 10: Sophia Bock	May 29: Rose Abrams Lilly Feinstein
May 11: Zachary Denn	May 30: Garry Smith
May 12: Shirley Rovinsky	
May 16: Stephanie Ayers	

May Anniversaries:

May 1: Yoosef & Faye Lavi
May 5: Sheldon & Terri Schepps
May 27: Steven & Kerrie Wolfson
May 28: Solomon & Nancy Israel
May 29: Dr. Steven Goldfine & Deborah Deitsch-Perez
May 30: Marcos & Karen Hazan-Cohen
May 31: Daniel & Stephanie Prescott

Due to the challenges presented by the COVID1 virus, Tiferet did not send an April Hakol. This edition of the Hakol is abbreviated, as we are currently unaware of when we will be able to resume services. Once it is deemed safe to do so, we will update our members!

Donations:

General Fund:

In Memory of:

Ida Webster
Benjamin Schultz
Howard Schultz
Sidney Kuntz
Erlahu Kuntz
Minnie Rosen
Sandy Kuntz
Hilda Cobbel
Sharon Wichter
Louis Goldberg
Esther Cohen
Saul Israel
Nancy & Solomon Israel
Kathleen Rosenbach
Herma Rika Rosenbach
Luis Terner
Benjamin Terner
Marcia & Jaime Kopel
Sima & Hersch Ross
Ita Ross
Jacob & Sara Suster
Rebecca Sklaver
Miriam Kaplan Deitsch, Ph.D
Aviva & Fred Dunsky

Dorothy Bornfeld
Cindy Goldman

In Honor of:

Dr. Carolyn Thomas
Dr. David Weber

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

In Honor of:

David Prager
Brad Gelsky

In Memory of:

George Gelsky
Brad Gelsky
Rozann Hermann
Sydel Rudner
Pearl Baum
Dr. David Weber
Cecile Holiner
Ethel Holiner
Gerald Reisberg
Carl Schachter
Melissa & Sam Schachter

Stanley Schepps Scholarship Fund:

In Memory of:

Rodger Steinberg
Lynda Steinberg

In Honor of:

Jake Wyatt Schepps
Terri & Sheldon Schepps

Florence & Esir Tobolowsky Education Fund:

In Memory of:

Florence Tobolowsky
Miriam Tobolowsky
Ted, Mindy, Staci, &
Farrell Tobolowsky
Richard Einhorn
Jake Einhorn

In Honor of:

Ted Tobolowsky
Jeanette & Michael Pincus

May Yahrzeits:

May 1 - Iyar 7:

Robert Schenkler
Helen Topek
Marian Weinberg

May 2 - Iyar 8:

Fredrick Bert Schenkler

May 3 - Iyar 9:

T. Bender
Theodore O'Krent

May 4 - Iyar 10:

Arnold Abrams
Rose Apanof
Else Haymann
Ira Ross
Shoshana Wolanow

May 5 - Iyar 11:

Vivian Lorraine Blashka
August Danburg
Devorah Domb
Harry Goldman
Nathan "Nate" Oxman

May 6 - Iyar 12:

Gaston Maya

May 7 - Iyar 13:

Mendel Davidowitz
Rona Diamond
Louis Oxman
Pnchas Reiman

May 8 - Iyar 14:

Rose Golden
Nanci Gale Stern

May 9 - Iyar 15:

Estelle Ross

May 11 - Iyar 17:

Helen Jerome

May 13 - Iyar 19:

Caroline Marx

May 14 - Iyar 20:

Aaron "Sonny" Charles
Dr. Ivor Robinson

May 15 - Iyar 21:

Robert Steinberg

May 16 - Iyar 22:

Shelly Borin
Norman W. Hempling

May 17 - Iyar 23:

Henry Marx
Sara Wolf

May 19 - Iyar 25:

Rachel Davidson
Robert Silverman

May 20 - Iyar 26:

Alfred Morris Benjamin
Arnold Greenberg

May 22 - Iyar 28:

Jack Polsky

Freida Rubin

Harriet Shulkin

Etia Terner

May 23 - Iyar 29:

Joe Schuman

May 24 - Sivan 1:

Gwen G. Benjamin
Margit Fruhlinger

May 25 - Sivan 2:

Abram Kisin

May 26 - Sivan 3:

Murray Nemser

Clara Weill

May 27 - Sivan 4:

Zelma Berk

May 28 - Sivan 5:

Fannie Byers

Esther Levy

Jan Pastor

Idell Rovinsky

May 29 - Sivan 6:

Efrim Schmidt

May 31 - Sivan 8:

Max Goldfarb

Martin Michael Hirschberg

Ray Levin

Leon Smith

Video Learning Opportunities at Tiferet!

Classes will not meet at Tiferet at this time due to the current health concern.

Classes are available online, recorded weekly. Links are provided in the weekly eblast and on the main page of our website after the class has been recorded, via Facebook.

You can find our Facebook pages at:
Tiferet Israel Congregation

[Http://facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation](http://facebook.com/tiferetisraelcongregation)

Classes: What does Judaism say About...
& Skittish about Yiddish - both led by
Rabbi Zell.

Weekly Shabbat talk by Rabbi Zell.

Tiferet Israel Young Families

<http://facebook.com/TiferetIsraelyoungfamilies>

Tuesday night at 8:30 pm -
Tuesday Torah Live with Rabbi Sabo.

You do not have to have a Facebook page to enjoy these classes. If you have a Facebook page and like our pages, you will be notified when we upload new classes.

New links are uploaded each week to our website:

<http://www.tiferetisrael.org>