



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 9, 2020-2021

May 2021, Iyar - Sivan 5781

Rabbi Moti Rieber



Beineinu – Between Us By Rabbi Moti Rieber

Wisdom of the Ancestors

Pirke Avot is a collection of rabbinic aphorisms and ethical teachings dating from the second century CE. It is part of the Mishna, the early collection of Jewish legal teachings, even though Pirke Avot is not legal material, but rather deals with moral principles. It is customary to study Pirke Avot during the six weeks of the Omer, between Passover and Shavuot. For this month's column I would like to lift a few of these verses for us.

Yehoshua ben Perachyah says, accept a teacher upon yourself, acquire a friend for yourself, and judge everyone favorably. (1:6)

The texts in Pirke Avot are framed as oral tradition passed from one generation to the next; we can see them as guidelines for students, or as good advice for anyone pursuing a spiritual path. A teacher is one whose authority we respect, someone whom we allow to guide and correct us in our learning or living. The friend here is a companion, a peer on a similar path to ours, someone we can learn and grow with. The last phrase may be the hardest. It is so easy to judge what others are doing as wrong or insufficient, but when we recognize that the only behavior we can control is our own, it lifts the heavy weight of moral judgment from us, allowing us to view everyone else in the community sympathetically.

[Rabbi Tarfon] used to say, you are not required to complete the task, neither are you free to desist from it. (2:21)

I use this text quite often in my social justice work, having brought this verse to many churches across Kansas. I think of this as a Jewish version of the Serenity Prayer, which asks for the strength to do what it is within our power to do, and the ability to recognize what is not. When things look dark; when the forces that oppose justice are in ascendance; or when bad things happen beyond our our ability to affect them, this text tells us that all we have to do is what we can, with what we have, where we are. That is plenty, and it is enough. But we must do that! It is vital that we do what it is within our power to do; then we can leave the rest to others, or to God.

Continued on Page 2

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[Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa] used to say: Anyone whose good deeds exceed his wisdom, their wisdom will endure; but anyone whose wisdom exceeds his good deeds, their wisdom will not endure. (3:12)

Wisdom (or Torah knowledge) is not some rarified thing that is separate from how it affects our actions in the world. This text shows the balance between theory and practice; or between those who know (or think they do!) and those who do. This is a good text for the social media age: lots of people have opinions, which they are more than willing to share from behind their keyboards, but when it comes to action, they are nowhere to be found. Book learning is important, Torah study is important, theory is important, but it must be balanced by a commitment to doing the hard work. That is what brings results that will last, rather than just another pile of opinions.

Ben Zoma says, who is wise? The one who learns from every person. Who is strong? The one who subdues his personal inclination [i.e. is slow to anger]. Who is rich? The one who is happy with his lot. Who is honored? The one who honors others. (4:1)

How many times have we said, if I only had that house, or that car, or that job, or made \$20,000 more per year, if only my kid got better grades, my life would be so much better? Only to find that when we get those things, our “needs” expand, and we are no closer to satisfaction than we were before. This is another text that connects the wisdom of Torah to actions in the world. Wisdom is the ability to learn from those around us – and not just those we admire! Honor is not the collecting of accolades and awards; it is the ability to recognize and celebrate the achievements of others – and not just think about how their actions affect me.

The language in Pirke Avot is not difficult; the ideas are easily comprehensible. But these brief texts contain wisdom it would take a lifetime to fully understand. I encourage you to study them for yourself – perhaps with a spiritual companion! For as Rabbi Yosi says, *apply yourself to the study of Torah – for it will not be yours by inheritance. (2:17)*

Sunday, May 16

7:00 pm Adult Education: Third Thursdays with Rabbi Moti (**Last session on Sunday**) via Zoom.

(**Sunday evening instead of Thursday**) - Shavuot. It is a common custom to learn on this special night, which celebrates revelation at Sinai. We will explore texts related to revelation and covenant, the themes of the holiday. Join us with the Zoom link

<http://bit.ly/RM3rdThurs>



Contributions

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Beth Sholom by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

General Fund

Einsteins

Melissa Householder

-In memory of Richard Rosenfield

Nick Dyer

Scott and Anne Hesse

-Thank you Temple Beth Sholom for being good neighbors

Russ and Jane Greene

-Thank you, Rabbi Moti, for the meaningful and fun seder

Ron and Frayna Scrinopskie

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In appreciation to Julie and the entire search committee on their outstanding job in choosing our new rabbi

-Mazel Tov to the parents and grandparents on the birth of Dawson September Atwood

-Mazel Tov to the parents and grandparents on the birth of Charles Declan Gordon

Harold and Ronda

Youngentob

-In memory of the holocaust victims, including my grandparents, uncle and others slaughtered in their home in Poland

Maimonides Fund

Allen and Beth Kossoy

-In memory of David Bristol

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In memory of Elaine Zlotky

-In memory of Marvin Facher

-In memory of Martin Wisman

Religious School Fund

Len and Terry Richter

-Thank you for the Purim boxes

Ron and Frayna

Scrinopskie

-Congratulations to Todd and Tara Gordon on the birth of Charles Declan

Mitzvah Committee

Len and Terry Richter

-Thank you for the Seder

Epoch Tree of Life

Ron and Frayna

Scrinopskie

-This first leaf is dedicated to Temple Beth Sholom for the continuation of a prosperous Jewish community

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-In honor of Warren Sickel's long-term musical support of Temple Beth Sholom

Adult Education Fund

Ron and Frayna

Scrinopskie

-In memory of Betty Rosen



The Temple Beth Sholom family extends condolences to:

Len and Terry Richter on the death of Sonny Lipitz, Len's cousin and Bruce A. Goldstein, a friend of Len.

Zichronam livracha – May their memory be a blessing.

Yahrzeits

May 7 – Dave Briman, Lucy (Nickie) Nichols Stein, Michael Kossoy, Harry Friedman, Morris Glassman, Bradley Schifman, Geri Goldstein, Ralph Haimowitz, R. Glenn Elliott, Bernard Briman, Leo Finkelstein, Jacqueline Schuttera

May 14 – Rose Shapiro, Dorothy Bryan, Lillian Endlick, Don Feinberg, Martin Savedow, Nell Levy

May 21 – Minnie Ida Pressman, Etta Glazier, Mollie Mandelbaum, Irv Sheffel, AB Dick III, Bessie Fredman, Leah Gordon, Joanie Ross, David Swartzman, Sonny Facher, Ann Kauk, Lillian Lewin, Arthur Hallert, Chuck Nowick, Miriam Weinsaft, David Badner, Alice Gartner, Donald Thayer

May 28 – A. Cyrus Cohen, Merril-Jai Fernandes, Zachery Porter, Rebecca Shapiro, Neil Andrew Leff, Lauren Forstein, Irving Pressman, Wendy Moore, Robert Porter, Norman Weinstein, Abraham Gordon, Elizabeth Tuck, Abraham Allis, Roy Shapiro

Make donations and contributions to Temple at this secure link (in the message box on the checkout page, put what the donation is for):
<https://tbs.convertri.com/donate>

MAY SHABBAT SERVICES

Religious Services for May via Zoom

(Zoom Links are in Weekly emails or reminder service emails)

Friday, May 7, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Deborah Edelman-Dolan and Rhoda Wisman will lead the service.

Friday, May 14, Outdoor Shabbat Service on Temple Grounds - 7:00 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service. May birthday and anniversary blessings will be given. This is an in-person service and not available on Zoom.

Friday, May 21, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Julie Petrucci-Treen and Stephanie Schuttera will lead the service.

Friday, May 28, Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service.

Reform Jewish Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays 2020-2021 (5781)

Shavuot, May 16-17, 2021 (sunset Sunday-sunset Monday)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Temple Beth Sholom Board of Directors, and following a vote of the membership, it is our great pleasure and pride to announce that Samuel Stern will be joining our congregation as Rabbi this summer.

Samuel Alexander Stern was born and raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., and has worked and lived in Baltimore, MD; San Antonio, TX; and Los Angeles, CA. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Jewish Studies from Towson University and an M.A. in Jewish Communal Service, as well as an M.A. in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR. Sam will be ordained as a Rabbi on May 23. Sam was inspired by congregations he served in Ogden, UT; San Antonio, TX; and Baltimore, MD, as well as the Hillel of USC.

Sam has been recognized as a rising leader in the Reform movement by organizations like AIPAC and the Shalom Hartman Institute, which have selected him for exclusive fellowships. You can read his published work in the CCAR Journal and on 929 English as part of the 929 Project. When he is not working, Sam enjoys writing, playing and watching sports, volunteering, and smoking barbecue brisket.

Sam's wife, Caryn, is an epidemiologist working for the Department of Defense. They are both very excited to join Temple Beth Sholom and share holy moments with the community.

To learn more about Rabbi Stern, please visit his website: www.rabbistern.net

B'vracha (In blessing),

Alan Parker

President, Temple Beth Sholom

Julie Petrucci-Treen

Rabbi Search Committee Chair, Temple Beth Sholom



BLINTZE BRUNCH



**Temple Beth Sholom
56th Annual Jewish Food
Curbside Event and
Online Silent Auction**

Order your delicious Blintze Brunch meals ready for you to pick up on
Sunday, May 2, 2021 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm
Quantities are limited.

(Please—you must place your order by the May 1 cutoff!)
Get Your Blintze Brunch Meal Tickets Online at
www.TBSGiving.com

A new feature in the Bulletin will be a list of birthdays and anniversaries of members for the month. The office did not have a birth date or anniversary for everyone. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or if you do not want your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Temple office. We hope you enjoy seeing who else has a birthday the same as you.

May Birthdays

Gavin Roth – 3rd
Alan Wisman – 5th
Steve Briman – 8th
Julie Petruccelli-Treen – 8th
Terry Richter – 12th
Alan Parker – 13th
Nancy Nowick-Kauk – 16th
MJ Krasny – 19th
Carolyn Litwin – 19th
Tallulah Benson-Ross – 21st
Eric Rosen – 25th
Rachel Herold – 27th
Everett Benson – 28th
Max Magee – 28th
David Goldwhite – 31st
Jeanne Frieman – 31st
Len Richter – 31st

May Anniversaries

Hal and Jennifer McBee – 6th
David Chall and Susan Zuber-Chall – 17th
Irv and Lauren Cohen – 29th
Sean and Hayley Magee – 31st



Celebrating Shavuot

I cannot believe it is almost time for summer to roll through again and another year of our beloved Sunday School is almost complete. Another holiday comes with this time of year. Exactly seven weeks after the end of Passover is the holiday almost everyone has not heard of. That is right, the holiday of Shavuot.

Shavuot commemorates a time thousands of years ago when g-d gave the Torah to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai. It is said that the mountain was blooming with beautiful flowers at the time. As I look outside the window to my house, my yard is also blooming with beautiful flowers and I try to imagine what it must have been like on that mountain. There are many traditions that accompany this holiday.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot is one such tradition some choose to follow. It is the celebration of learning where participants stay awake all night to study the Torah. This tradition started because of a story where the Israelites went to bed too early and ended up oversleeping while g-d was waiting to give the Torah to them. I have never been the type to be able to stay awake all night. Unfortunately, I would have been one of the people that slept through receiving the Torah.

There are certain foods that are eaten during Shavuot. These are typically dairy foods such as cheese, blintzes, ice cream and cheesecake. Those are all items I love to eat, thus incorporating them into my celebration of the holiday will be quite a pleasure. It is also common to have a picnic of sweets to remember that the Torah is as sweet as honey.

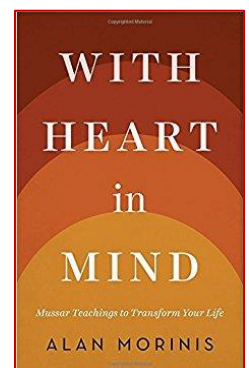
Another tradition is to decorate your home with greenery and flowers to represent Mount Sinai blooming when the Torah was given to the Israelites.

The last thing I will mention on the topic is that Shavuot commemorates the start of the summer wheat harvest in Israel. Which is also the start of gardening season in Kansas, so it is time to go get my gardening started and remember this wonderful holiday season and commemorations.

Danielle Harsin
Temple Beth Sholom
Board of Directors

Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding **Next Meeting: May 12 at noon via Zoom**

We read Alan Morinis' *With Heart in Mind ~ Mussar Teachings to Transform Your Life*. We study the character traits (*middot*) and work on bringing them into our lives in the right amount. Please have the book for the *Va'ad* meetings. We will review Chapter 39 and read Chapter 40. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link will be in the Temple Beth Sholom weekly e-mail.



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, May 22, via Zoom. May 8 has been cancelled.

Introduction to the Zohar, by Arthur Green.

Our group is reading Art Green's excellent and thorough introduction to the Pritzker edition of the *Zohar*. If you want to get an inside look at the *Zohar*, please join us for this fascinating read! Let the Temple Office know if you want to attend via Zoom.



Last Day of Religious School
Sunday, May 16, 10:30 am
Via Zoom.



Doorstep Newsletter Article ~ May 2021

Doorstep has been assisting with clothing and hygiene items needed for the new state of the art trailer that will provide showers, laundry, and restrooms to Topeka's unsheltered populations and other individuals. This is the first component to the Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) which is the collaboration of Valeo Behavioral Health and the Topeka Rescue Mission. Later this year, there will be a mobile food pantry and mobile health service unit. This is truly a collaborative effort of many agencies and churches in our community coming together to help the unsheltered and at-risk families and adults. Doorstep is happy to do what we can. While we have helped stock the trailer with clothing so people can have a clean outfit after their shower, and smaller sized hygiene items, we are also keeping on hand what we need to help those coming to our doorstep for assistance.

The ribbon cutting for the new program and trailer will be May 4 at 11:00 am, St. John AME Church at 701 SW Topeka Blvd.

There may be times in the future when we might request specific items as the project needs them if we don't already have them here at Doorstep. This is a big community effort, and we are proud to be a part of it!



Save the Date: Temple Beth Sholom's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 13, at 10:00 am

- Election of Officers and Board members**
- Approval of the budget**
- Discussion of other Temple matters**



In accordance with ARTICLE XI, COMMITTEES of the Bylaws of Temple Beth Sholom, “It shall be the duty of this committee to submit names of nominees for the seats on the Board of Directors and all officers to the congregation for election.” The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for election at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, at 10:00 am.”

Officers

President – Julie Petruccelli-Treen

Vice President – Deborah Edelman-Dolan

Financial Secretary – Margot Brown

Secretary – Esther Potts

Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Nominated for a first term on the Board of Directors for 3 years:

Art Glassman

Danelle Harsin

Hayley Magee

The Bylaws also state, “The names of the nominees shall be announced in the Temple Bulletin six weeks prior to the annual meeting. This committee shall accept nominations by the congregation at large submitted in writing up to three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations after this deadline are not allowed.” Thank you to our Nomination Committee: Jane Greene, Julie Petruccelli-Treen, Frayna Scrinopskie, and Todd Gordon.

Church Using Temple

The Apostolic Assembly Church is using the Social Hall at the Temple. They are in the building on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Please greet them when you see them. They will be adhering to strict cleaning and social distancing guidelines.



EPOCH TREE OF LIFE

The plaque on the new Epoch Tree of Life reads: In Loving memory of Nancy Scrinopskie Epoch and Barry and Evan Epoch. Gift from Ron and Frayna Scrinopskie.

The Epoch Tree of Life has been installed on the North wall of the Temple Sanctuary. You can purchase and engrave a leaf for \$100.

Please contact Temple Office for details.

Highlights from Temple Beth Sholom Board meeting, April 7, 2021

- We have a new full-time Rabbi, starting in July! After many months of hard work, Julie Petruccelli-Treen and the Rabbi Search Committee found a wonderful candidate, Samuel Stern. The congregation voted its approval at a special meeting on April 4.
- As vaccinations progress, Allen Kossoy is heading a committee to design and determine how and when we will be returning to our building. First steps are to hold outdoor services on May 14 and June 11.
- Preparation work is continuing for the Blintze Brunch and the Silent Auction. People are asked to please volunteer when help is needed.

TEMPLE SPRING CLEANING - THANK YOU!!!!

To Adam Treen, Will Potts, Harold Youngentob and Alan Wisman for donating mulch for ground cover. To Adam Treen, Will Potts, Rhoda Wisman, Esther Potts, Alan Wisman, Leif Dolan and Anya Potts for cleaning the outside of Temple on Sunday, April 18.

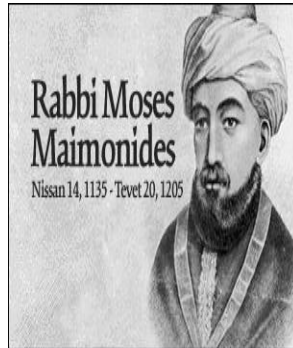
Mazel Tov!

To Todd and Tara Gordon on
the birth of their son, Charles
Declan.

To Ron and Frayna Scrinopskie
on the birth of their
granddaughter, Dawson
September.

To Russ and Jane Green on the
birth of their grandson, Clyde
Benjamin.

NEW ADDRESS FOR THE HARSIN FAMILY
3900 SW ROY RD
TOPEKA KS 66610



Just a reminder, at the 2013 Annual meeting, the congregation approved establishing a Maimonides Rabbinic Fund to assure continued rabbinic leadership at Temple Beth Sholom.

This assessment amounts to \$5 per month per family or \$60 a year and started with our fiscal year beginning June 1, 2013.

If possible, please send a separate check for \$60 (made out to Temple Beth

Sholom or Maimonides Fund), with your dues check to make your contribution to the Maimonides Rabbinic Fund.

Also, contributions to this fund do not need to be limited to this yearly payment. Donations can also be made for a *yahrzeit*, to commemorate a birth or a wedding, a thank you, etc.

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Congregation shall be to worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism; to cultivate a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage through study; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community and the community at large; to strengthen the bond of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; and to promote the principles of righteousness in the world. To further those purposes the Congregation will be a member of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Hy-Vee Gift Cards & Dillons Rewards Program

Do not forget we have Hy-Vee gift cards in the Temple office, and we get 5% from Hy-Vee. You can purchase other gift cards at Hy-Vee with your Temple Hy-Vee gift card, purchased at Temple Beth Sholom. And as a reminder, if you are signed up for the Dillons Community Reward program through your Dillon's card, Temple Beth Sholom receives a percentage of your grocery purchases.



MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?! Access Temple's Calendar: https://templebethsholomtopeka.view-events.com/calendar/73982531/						1
2 BLINTZE BRUNCH CURBSIDE EVENT 9:00 am No Religious School	3	4	5 Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm	6	7 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Deborah Edelman-Dolan/ Rhoda Wisman	8 Kabbalah Study Group cancelled
9	10	11	12 Middot Va'ad via Zoom 12:00 pm	13	14 Outdoor Shabbat Service at Temple 7:00 pm Rabbi Rieber	15
16 Erev Shavuot Last Day of Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am 3 rd Thursday with Rabbi Rieber via Zoom 7:00 pm	17 Shavuot	18	19	20	21 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Julie Petruccelli- Treen/ Stephanie Schuttera	22 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am via Zoom
23	24	25	26	27	28 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Rieber	
30	31					

Temple Beth Sholom

4200 SW Munson Ave, Topeka, KS 66604-1879

The Temple Beth Sholom *Bulletin* is published by Temple Beth Sholom at 4200 SW Munson Ave., Topeka, KS monthly. Material for inclusion should be received at Temple office NO LATER THAN the 8th of the month prior to publication.

Website – templebethsholomtopeka.org

President – Alan Parker

Vice-President – Julie Petruccelli-Treen

Secretary – Deborah Edelman-Dolan

Financial Secretary – Margot Brown

Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Board members:

Ezra Ginzburg, Jane Greene, Danelle Harsin, Melissa

Householder, Allen Kossoy, Hayley Magee, Stephanie Schuttera, Elaine Schwartz, Ron Scrinopskie



UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

We are updating our directory and email list. Please send any updates to your mailing address, phone numbers and email addresses to the Temple office at office@tbstopeka.org.

MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

If you know anyone who is not receiving the monthly email bulletin but would like to receive one, please inform the Temple Office.

**Office Hours – Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment
Rabbi Rieber Office Hours
by appointment**

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:

www.templebethsholomtopeka.org

Facebook: Templebethsholom-topeka

Office@tbstopeka.org

Rabbi@tbstopeka.org



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM

האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית

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