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TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
TORAH • LIFE • COMMUNITY

The Shofar



TEMPLE BETH HILLEL, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

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“Who is rich? The person who is satisfied with what they have.” – Pirkei Avot 4:1

Three days before Christmas (yes I missed the deadline for the Shofar once again, I am sorry Barbara) Nike re-issued an Air Jordan shoe. According to the news reports this was an extremely rare, limited edition shoe. People waited outside of stores and malls for days to buy the shoe and the morning it went on sale there were riots and violence across the country. In Seattle police used pepper-spray to subdue shoppers who had broken down shop doors before opening time. Here in Richmond a man opened fire with a pistol in his frenzied effort either to get a pair of these shoes, or to defend his pair from those who wanted to take them from him.

I don't know a thing about basketball shoes but I do know that no shoe is worth risking your own life or the lives of others. This is so obvious that I feel like an idiot writing this sentence. But I think it needs to be said. I am not shocked by the violence this shoe sale caused but I am shocked at the silence over the incident – because it says a great deal about our values as a society. To be clear, this isn't just about basketball shoes, it's about materialism in general. On Black Friday shoppers were spraying other shoppers with Mace to make sure they would get the electronic device on sale that would make their husband/child/sibling/parent/friend happy on Christmas morning. In some stores shoppers were trampled. A few years ago a security guard was killed when shoppers rushed the doors of a WalMart in search of bargains. But back to the Nike Air Jordans.

First, I think Nike knew exactly what it was doing. The company is brilliant at marketing its product. For years they

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Rabbi: continued from page 1

have hired the most famous athletes – the ones we admire the most - to endorse their products. They give complete uniforms to university football programs for free so their famous “swoosh” can be displayed on national television for free. Their shoes are the most expensive on the market and I doubt they are superior to any other athletic shoe. I am willing to bet a marketing genius at Nike knew that releasing a rare shoe, in limited quantities, targeted at young men, right before Christmas would, at minimum, cause enough of a commotion to land Nike’s name all over the news just in time for the last two shopping days before Christmas and enable them to move more product. I could be wrong. But there has been no word of condemnation, no apology, and no contrition from the company at all. So I think they welcomed the publicity. So shame on Nike.

The silence among our punditocracy, our political leadership, and the so-called moral leadership stuns me as well. I know there are many important issues on the public agenda right now. We are mired in the worst recession since the Great Depression. Many have been out of work for over two years. There is no end in sight. Our fellow citizens are suffering greatly. But there should be outrage that people are willing to fight over a pair of shoes, because it indicates how little we care about each other and how much we focus on satisfying our own needs, even the most trivial. So shame on our leadership.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time of hope and joy. In Judaism we celebrate the bravery and commitment of a small band of Judeans who were willing to fight the most powerful empire of their time to keep their vision and tradition alive. We mark the miracle by increasing light each night over eight days. Christmas celebrates the birth of hope for the redemption of humanity and values peace and human connection. For those who do not celebrate a religious holiday, this season is about reaffirming the bonds of love and connection. Giving gifts, I believe, is meant to be a token of love not an end in itself. It is the emotion that matters. The physical object is only a representation.

I know that there are many in our congregation who feel and act differently. Our social action committee gathered donations to provide food and toys for impoverished families in Richmond to ensure they had a little warmer and more joyous Christmas. On Christmas morning a number of congregants served Christmas lunch and sang carols to those

who, struggling or homeless or both, came for a holiday meal at GRIP. We have been collecting food for almost three years for the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry. I know that there are many other ways we reach out to help others and share what we have. This is true wealth, not compiling things but piling up acts of loving kindness toward others. January is a time of resolutions. Let us all resolve to grow our compassion toward others, to continue the act of creation by doing our part to end suffering and through our deeds to show our love for others.

Rabbi Dean Kertesz

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Anniversaries:

Douglas & Meg Freifeld	1/3
Sanford & Helene Wichner	1/19
Maggie Jacobs & Robert Woznicki	1/23

Birthdays:

Beverly Lesch	1/5	
Mark Tracht	1/7	
Eric Husby-Gerry	1/8	
Bart Grossman	1/9	
Valerie Schillaci	1/11	
Arny Waxman	1/12	
Cheryl Black	1/14	
Teri-Lee Tracht	1/15	
Helene Wichner	1/17	
Aviv Martin Delgado	1/18	16th birthday
Eva Kertesz	1/18	
Ruth Fremes	1/19	
Hana Bleicher Minsky	1/19	14th birthday
Linda Ratner	1/19	
June Kamerling	1/20	
David Brown	1/21	
Kumi Hadler	1/24	
Noe Hadler	1/24	6th birthday
Howard Cohen	1/25	
Juli Goldwyn	1/26	
Marilyn Hertzberg	1/26	
Sanford Wichner	1/26	
Darren Kessler	1/27	
David Jay Katz	1/28	16th birthday

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Laura Taub and David Kline on the birth of their granddaughter, Lillian Judith Kline and to her parents, Daniel and Zita Kline

HELP WANTED

Help with the **Silent Auction**

Contact Laura Taub

Help with the **Tu B'Shevat seder**

Contact Larry Fox

Help with the **Gift Shop**

Contact Laura Taub

Shelve and/or process books for the **Children's Library**

Contact Laura Taub

Plan Adult Education programs

Contact Laura Taub

Sponsor an oneg to celebrate Shabbat

Contact Sheri Tattenham.

Help our members: The Caring Community needs cooks, drivers and visitors

Contact Marilyn Hertzberg

Help prepare and serve GRIP dinners

Contact Neoma Kenwood

Feed the hungry at the Souper Center

Contact Jane Kaasa

Help organize an educational or social program

Contact Laura Taub

Beautify our Temple by rehangng the holiday needlepoints

Contact Louise Snitz

Everyone will be needed to help with the **Purim Carnival.**

Silent Auction at Purim Carnival March 4th. Help Needed in Soliciting Donations.

Do you have personal contact with businesses who might donate to the Silent Auction? Are you a customer of any of these businesses? Are you willing to contact them to solicit donations? Often a personal contact is the best way to get support. Please let Linda Rose know if there are businesses you would suggest and if you are willing to contact them. See Roster For Contact Information or call Laura Taub.



Tzedakah

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?

And if only for myself, what am I?

And if not now, when?"

General Contributions:

Sherbie Aberle, in memory of William Hardy

Linda Rose & Jim Montgomery, in memory of Sara Haberer

Pearl Wolffs, in memory of Augusta Wolffs Brody

Religious School Enrichment Fund:

Muriel Brounstein, in appreciation of Our Religious School

& dedicated teachers

Dues Relief Fund:

Tracy Zell-Bennett, in memory of Sy Zell

Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam Fund:

Dana Meyer & June Kamerling, in memory of Isaiah Meyer

& Rudolph Kamerling

Office Equipment Fund:

Bernie & Daisy Dulberg, in memory of Ruby Dulberg

Kitchen Fund:

Pearl Wolffs, in memory of Walter Wolffs

Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

Leila Blumenfeld, in memory of Frances Blumenfeld

Reva & Jonathan Cronk, in memory of Jean Mason

Victoria Mason, in memory of Jean Mason

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Janet Neiderbach, in memory of Arnold Neiderbach

Eric Zell & Wendy Siu, in memory of Sy Zell & Clara Lieberman

High Holy Day Appeal Fund (GRIP Teen Room):

Judy Windrix & Bill Hartman



Yahrzeits
Zichronah livrachah

Albert Nathan Cohen, Father of Howard Cohen	1/1
Samuel Feurst, Father of Irving Feurst	1/1
Lilyan Manger, Mother of Irene Morgan	1/1
Daniel Zell, Uncle of Eric, Bonnie & Tracy Zell	1/3
Kurt Benjamin, Father of Jane Kaasa, Grandfather of Maurice & Eric	1/4
Irwin Straus, Brother in law of Henry Linker	1/4
Bertha F. Dains, Mother of Barbara Ball	1/5
Yale Cohen, Uncle of Howard Cohen	1/6
Gertrude Gracer, Grandmother of Jamie Gracer	1/6
David William Hudson, Brother of Nori Hudson	1/6
Ruth Rosen, Aunt of Irene Morgan	1/6
Shirley Gerry, Mother of Eric Husby-Gerry	1/7
Vera Bayliss, Aunt of Evelyn Hooker	1/8
Melvin Wolffs, Son of Pearl Wolffs	1/9
Alex Brian Gregory, Nephew of June Maberry	1/12
Clara Katzenellenbogen, Mother of David Katzenellenbogen, Grandmother of Benjamin	1/12
Rebecca Jaffe, Grandmother of Arlene Lisby	1/13
Nettie Morgan, Mother in law of Irene Morgan	1/13
Alxio Saito, Friend of Alan Marks	1/13
Lillian S. Taub, Mother of Laura Taub	1/14
Julius Gracer, Grandfather of Jamie Gracer	1/16
Liesel Van Hoy, Mother of David Van Hoy	1/17
Anna Segal Weidenfeld, Mother of Jay Weidenfeld	1/17
Malcolm Levenson, Father of Louise Levenson-Snitz,	1/18
William Mandel, Husband of Roberta Mandel	1/19
Hans Gerson, Husband of Lily Roberts Gerson	1/20
Steve Osburn, Brother of David Osburn	1/20
Minnie B. Press, Aunt of Barbara Weidenfeld	1/20
Olive Levak, Mother of Mary Cohen	1/21
Sydney J. Goldberg, Brother of Clara-Rae Genser	1/22
Gertrude Sondheimer, Mother of Miriam Gerber	1/22
Rose Miller, Grandmother of Arlene Lisby	1/25
Lester Swallowood, Uncle of Jane Kaasa	1/26
Edward Ratner, Father of Linda Ratner	1/27
Bessie Goldberg, Mother of Ruth Fremes	1/28
Sam Meisel, Father of Helene Wichner	1/28
Ina Osburn, Mother of David Osburn	1/28
Jacob Leshaa, Grandfather of Joyce Kessler	1/30



SHOAH MEMORIES (Chapter 17) by Sam Genirberg

The SS Sonder Commando Lager was situated on the outskirts of the beautiful city of Trier on the Mosel River.

After witnessing the brutality of the guards and the capos at the entrance I quickly realized that life in this camp will not be like in the Koblenz jail. We were soon ordered to line up, and SS soldiers with their vicious dogs and civilian clad capos emerged to question us. "What is your name?" One capo shouted at me. "Andrey Trag" "Are you German?", asked the capo. "No, I am Ukrainian". I responded. He smacked my face several times. Other inmates were beaten up more severely for no reason at all, except to terrorize the prisoners.

We were then led in to a large room of the administration building for a medical examination. We were ordered to undress for what it looked like a thorough check up including weight and height of each inmate. Alarm bells went off in my mind hoping that the doctors wouldn't notice my circumcision. Luckily, I passed.

After the medical examination we were given bedding and marched off to a wooden one story building. After we made up our assigned bunk beds in a military fashion we were ordered to report to working brigades.

Most of the inmates were engaged in the production of bricks in a kiln located on the grounds. My assignment was to dig clay in a ravine and load the same with a shovel into narrow gauge railroad cars. This was the most rigorous job I had ever had to do. We were closely supervised by guards. We had to perform our duties swiftly, without letup, and without even momentary breaks. I heard rumors that men were beaten to death somewhere on the grounds for minor infractions. I was physically strong enough to do the work. I worked incessantly, doggedly, without letup, never trying to rest on my shovel until the work day was finished.

Every evening in the barracks I would see the wounds of some inmates who had been beaten by the guards.

The day began at four in the morning. A capo, wielding a leather belt ran through the barrack blowing a shrill whistle. Those of us who didn't awaken quickly enough were hit by the capo with the leather belt. The beds had to be made perfectly in military fashion. Following, we would walk to a washing station for a thorough wash with cold water to be chased out to the parade ground for roll call. Afterward we were allowed to a dining hall for breakfast. In return for the hard work we were fed well. A huge breakfast followed by a plentiful dinner.

We were not allowed to walk slowly at any time. We always had to run. If a soldier or capo encountered a man moving slowly he would be beaten into unconsciousness. As I

observed this senseless violence I wished I knew for how long I would have to remain in this dreadful camp.

After several weeks of performing the daily rugged duties without being reprimanded, one of the guards complimented me on my consistently good production. As a reward, he assigned me to a job that was considerably less physically demanding. I was now stacking fresh bricks on wooden pallets which were hauled away by a motorized jitney at intervals during the day. The same guard began to engage me in conversations in German, of course, to complain about his depressing job to be around such dumb inmates. I wondered if he expected me to feel sorry for him.

In view of the rugged living conditions, I suspected that most of the prisoners succumbed either to exhaustion or the brutal beatings long before completing their sentences, which no one knew the length of the internment.

At the end of each day the camp inmates were lined up on the main square in front of the administration building for a roll call. Afterwards, several thousand inmates were disbanded for the mad rush to dinner. Every evening, some weak inmates were injured or trampled to death.

What was very troubling for me, in addition to the hard work and inhumane treatment, was the requirement to disrobe every evening for an inspection of our bodies in the nude. What if a capo or another inmate would recognize that I was circumcised, and thus identify me as a Jew. For the first time since I escaped from the ghetto, that I didn't have an alternative plan for escape. That wasn't possible.

In addition to the Polish and Russian prisoners, there were also German men in this camp. They were imprisoned for many years for political reasons. I befriended one such man, a twenty six year old German by the name of Rudolph. He was a former Communist. When Rudolph learned that I was speaking German and I was from the Soviet Union he was eager to talk to me to learn everything he could about Stalin's regime. He would invite me to his private room. Since he served also as a capo he had certain privileges. I answered all his questions about the political set-up in the Soviet Union as well as the history of the Communist party since the Bolshevik revolution. "As you can see, it is not only the Jews, the Nazis want to get rid off". Rudolph said. "I was a Communist and I continued my activities until I was arrested in 1938. I have been here ever since. I became a capo in self defense in order to survive".

from **Midrasha in Berkeley** by Diane Bernbaum

December 9, 2011

Have you ever wanted to get inside the head of a teenager? We have. The Midrasha in Berkeley Board asked me to do a survey of the students to find out what kind of classes they liked the most. Then I gave the results of the survey to the faculty and asked them to keep those thoughts in mind while designing their classes for the spring semester. So..... what did they come up with?

Far and above any other subject was “food / cooking.” (I know, no surprise here.) So Anna Martin designed “Top (Jewish) chef. Each week they will learn about a variety of cooking techniques, ingredients and dishes from around the Jewish world. In a similar class in the fall Anna introduced the seven Biblical species: pomegranate, dates, olives, wheat, barley, grapes and figs, and asked the class to come up with dishes based only on those ingredients. Boy were they yummy.

The second most asked-for category was art. Next semester’s classes will include three art classes with Erica Fink: In one she will look at various stories in the Tanach as well as the work of a variety of Jewish artists and then use the techniques employed by those artists to illustrate the Biblical stories. In a second she will use both the meditative and functional qualities of clay to explore tactile facets of Judaism, from, sculpting heads of Jewish figures to perhaps making a set of Shabbat dinnerware. In a third class Erica will make Jewish sacred objects, everything from painted silk challah covers to students’ own decorations to make Jewish holiday experiences more festive. Day Schildkret will continue his Project Runway: Jew-Edition from last semester. Lest you have an incredulous look on your face right now after reading that title, you might like to know that last semester’s challenges were 1) to make clothing based on the idea of “tshuvah/return” for Rosh HaShana, “shelter” for Sukkot and students then designed a “tallit for the year 2112”. And Anna Martin’s “The Jewish art of Amulet Making” will combine art with a historic study and text study as well.

Next on the list of most-asked for classes were teen issues and relationships, so Beth Midanik-Blum will continue her popular class in “Relationships.” Students see what Judaism says about such topics as dating, marriage, interfaith relationships, abortion and the ethics of relationships, both

sexual and not. And Noemi Hollander will teach “The Jewish Body” helping teens form their self-image and a respectful relationship with their physical and sexual selves. They will discuss things such as clothing, sexuality and the prohibition against tattoos, all the time using the Tanach as a guide.

The next request in topics was for music, so Ilan Persing is teaching how to incorporate Jewish themes into songwriting. Since science fiction and fantasy were high on the list as well as video-watching, Sacha Kopin is teaching an old favorite, “Theology Through Film,” where she takes Hollywood films and uses them as a springboard to discuss God. And because “physical movement” was also a request, Sacha will also teach Israeli dance and Ilan Persing will do a class on Jewish improv. Students let us know that they like their Hebrew, Talmud and meditation classes so of course those will continue too.

We always get a fair number of new students to enroll at Midrasha starting in January. If you know anyone who would love these new elective classes, send them in our direction. Details can be found on our website: www.midrasha.org.



Special Thanks To

For the latke party:

Doug Freifeld for taking charge and for organizing the kitchen.

Josh Genser, Roberta Alexander, and Doug for shopping.

David Brown, Sam Chen, Holvis Delgadillo, Jane Durango, Pablo Durango, Larry Fox, Michael Fox, Josh Genser, Jeff Hadler, David Katzenellenbogen, Sid Levy, Alan Marks, Sharin Mendelson, Dana Meyer, and Carl Nelson for setting and cleaning up, and cooking and serving delicious latkes.

Elisabeth Miller for organizing, and **Heather Fox, Neoma Kenwood and Emily Specter** for staffing the children's crafts.

Rene'e Powell for organizing the artisans to share their beautiful work.

Betty Bleicher for running the gift shop.

Malka Helfman and the **Religious School students** for their performance describing the story of Hanukkah.

Howard Cohen for the candle lighting and songs.

Marcia Delgadillo, with help from **Audrey Berger**, for publicity.

And **Arlene Lisby** for helping everyone.

Rabbi Dean Kertesz and Howard Cohen

for conducting the services at the home of Evelyn and Ken Hooker;

Alan Marks for organizing;

and **Hallie Friedman, Marilyn Hertzberg and Sherri Tattenham** and for bringing onegs.

For helping to feed the hungry at the GRIP Souper Center: **Jane Kaasa** for organizing; **Kristen Hines, Anton Kaasa, Eric David Kaasa, Adolph Kamil, Sheri Tattenham, Barbara Weidenfeld, and Fran Welstand**.

Carl and Suzanne Nelson, Neoma Kenwood, and Renee Powell for hosting delicious onegs.

Howard Cohen for organizing our tables for the AIPAC event.

For cooking dinners for GRIP:

Neoma Kenwood and Selma Goldberg for organizing, cooking, and serving;
Alice Chanowitz, Rene'e Powell, Sam Chen, Marilyn Hertzberg, and Jane Durango for donating, cooking and serving.

Marc Teitelbaum for organizing the Board dinner.

From Temple Beth Hillel Midrash

Shalom Chaverim!

Since our last report in the November issue of The Shofar Temple Beth Hillel religious school events included a Shabbat Family Service and potluck dinner on November 4, 2011; new members were recognized and the children gave a performance relating to the weekly Torah portion Parashat Lech-Lecha. We hope to keep this tradition in the following months.

The children and religious school families enjoyed a trip to the zoo; the children learned the names of zoo animals in Hebrew beforehand. We visited the Oakland Zoo on a rainy Sunday (November 20, 2011). The children were supplied with a coloring booklet and with a list of zoo animals in Hebrew and English; we had a great time.

I am excited to introduce to you the TBH mural project:

Temple Beth Hillel Mural Project Announcement

The Religious School students and members of this congregation are invited to submit a design for a mural to be painted on one of the temple's exterior walls. Rules and details are displayed in the Temple's lobby or on the temple's website.

Summary: The project's goal is to paint a community mural for and by Temple Beth Hillel congregation to be finished by the end of June 2012. We will produce public art that will enhance and beautify the temple, and will have a lasting effect.

The theme of the mural is the *Seven Species of Israel* (Wheat, Barley, Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives, Dates).

Religious school students and members of the congregation are encouraged to submit a design of one of the seven species for the wall painting. A selection committee will choose the designs best suited for the mural, a final design will be composed using the chosen designs. Artists of selected designs will be rewarded.

WHAT: Rules and entry forms the mural project are available at Temple Beth Hillel lobby and on the temple's website.

WHEN: Last day to submit is February 15, 2011.

WHERE to submit: Submit design to designated box in the temple's lobby, or by mail:

Temple Beth Hillel

PO Box 20910, Richmond, CA 94820

Malka Helfman, TBH Educator



IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND JOY
THAT OUR FAMILY INVITES YOU
TO SHARE OUR JOY
AS

KIERAN JOSHUA

ד"ר

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH
AS A BAR MITZVAH

19TH OF TEVET 5772
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2012
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
801 PARK CENTRAL
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICE

JANE KEMP

PLEASE REPLY BY DECEMBER 20, 2011
KIERANSBARMITZVAH@GMAIL.COM



F. WARREN HELLMAN, AN APPRECIATION

“TO REPAIR THE WORLD”

On Monday, December 19, the San Francisco Chronicle announced the death of Financier-Philanthropist-Musician-Sportsman and all around civic ornament Warren Hellman at age 77. The story rated page 1, above-the-fold placement as befits a community benefactor of Mr. Hellman's status. The arresting feature of the article was a large photo showing Mr. Hellman playing his banjo on stage at last October's iteration of Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, the extremely popular free three day music festival he endowed as a gift to the Bay Area. That the occasion allowed him to perform with his own bluegrass group was typical of a man who could be generous and have a very good time in the process.

In the photo a beaming Mr. Hellman is wearing his performance jacket which sports large sequined *magen davids* on the sleeves. There could be no question that the performer and founder of the festivities is both Jewish and proud of it.

Extensive eulogies in national and local news media have covered the career and achievements of this remarkable man; President and star deal-maker at Lehman Brothers, founder of successful financial firms on the West Coast, funder of causes ranging from the Free Clinic to aquatic sports programs at UC Berkeley, civic powerhouse who used both his checkbook and negotiating skills to effect change, devoted family man, energetic sportsman and, last but definitely not least, studious Jew.

When Mr. Hellman and one of his daughters jointly became *b'nai mitzvot* two years ago he had been the founding member of a Torah study group that had been meeting for 25 years. Although his family had not been formally observant, said his daughter, core values of the commandments were in his upbringing. The tenets of benevolence and community involvement were ingrained.

The **mitzvah** of **tzedakah** is sometimes translated as 'to repair the world'. Most of us will never have the resources that Mr. Hellman brought to the task but we can well learn from his example.

Easy ways to support Temple Beth Hillel without spending any extra money.

Please sign on to eScript and register to support TBH. If you shop at Safeway, A percentage of your spending will be donated to Temple Beth Hillel. If you register your credit cards (it really is safe) a percentage of what you spend at certain vendors will donate money to TBH. Go to: <http://www.escrip.com>

Also, don't forget about: **www.OneCause.com**. If you shop on line, go to OneCause.com and assign TBH as your charity of choice. Then whenever you shop on line go first to OneCause.com and then through that web site, find the store you want to shop in. A percentage of your bill will be donated to TBH.

And for those of you who shop at Lucky's or Food Maxx: Pick up your S.H.A.R.E.S. card at the Temple and give it to the cashier when you shop. Easy -- no registration, no tracking of personal information. It's all easy and free and a great way to support Temple Beth Hillel in Richmond!

Please pass this message on to your friends and family members so they can chose to support TBH as well.

URJ Biennial Followup:

Last month the URJ held the 71st Biennial Conference neat Washington DC. A trip to attend was beyond the reach of most of us, but thanks to the organizers and the availability of internet access to so many of us, we were able to participate by watching the webcasts of the major sessions. They are still available for viewing <http://urj.org/biennial11/webcast/>

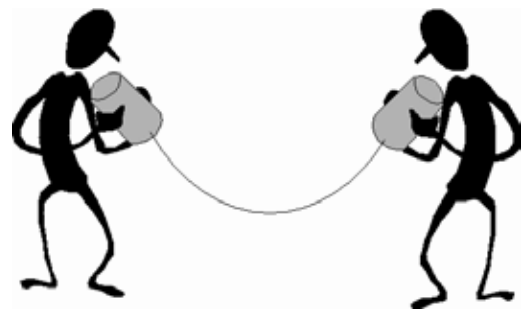
I particularly found the talk by Dr. Wendy Mogul to be incisive and the talk by Natan Sharansky about the importance of the Birthright program informative and I was deeply moved by the tributes to Debbie Friedman and her contributions to our lives.



What Did You Say? By Roberta Alexander

“Why don’t you ever comment on my Facebook page?” my daughter wanted to know.
I rarely go on Facebook, and when I do, I find most of the posts to be trivial or of no interest.
Maybe it’s generational, but my memory of my younger self is that even then I valued privacy and wasn’t so interested in the minute details of other people’s lives. (Well, unless it was about the guy de jour and the hormones were raging.)
Otherwise, are you going to the dentist? Swell. Nice to know you are taking care of yourself. But do I need to know about your appointment? Thank you, no.
Then my daughter said, “And you don’t like instant messaging.”
True. When I’d tried it I got irked at the flashing icon telling me I had a message waiting. It was distracting and made it seem more important than it was.
And, she noted, I don’t like texting either.
I wondered at her sudden interest in my stick-in-the-mud communication habits.
“You asked us to keep in touch with you more often,” she said.
Yes, I did. Last year I felt I wanted more frequent contact with my kids. And my serious and responsible daughter had tried to provide it.
I just didn’t recognize it.
It was a shock to me, someone who has devoted a lifetime to communication, to realize what I’d been missing. She was trying to give me what I’d said I wanted, but because of the form she had chosen, I didn’t recognize it.
It made me wonder how often I don’t hear something because it isn’t presented in the way I expect. And I don’t mean just social media that happen to be popular at the moment.
How often am I thinking about something else or already preparing my response when someone is trying to tell me something? More than once I’ve been surprised by something someone said because I wasn’t listening attentively in the first place.
I don’t always remember that communication can be tricky, although I first learned that lesson at age 8.
I was furious at something my little brother had done, and announced loudly, “I hate him!” And there was my mother, she who didn’t like confrontation, to say, “Oh, no, dear, you don’t hate him.”
The memory of that incident remains crystal clear: her remark reverberated through my body, and I thought, “My mother is lying to me!”
I recognized the strength of my hate and rage. How could she tell me it wasn’t so?
Even I realized at the time I wasn’t going to punch him silly. But that didn’t make the feelings less real. I never forgot that my mother preferred a veneer of peace to admitting conflict, and it colored much of our future communication.

And then there was the mind-reading incident, early in married life, which I try not to think about because it doesn’t reflect well on me.
Well, so be it.
I had a full time job [as a government functionary, no less] while my husband was in graduate school. I also had most of the traditional domestic duties. I didn’t always like it, but that’s the way things were done back then.
One day I came home after a tiring 30-mile commute in a rather dark mood. There had been problems at work that had not been resolved to my satisfaction, and the thought of making dinner was extremely unappealing.
(By the way, years later, and with another wife, my husband got interested in cooking. But in those days, not so much.)
A sensible and mature person would have said to her husband, “I had a tough day today. How about we go out for a burger?” The odds of him saying no were slim to none. Regrettably, I was neither sensible nor mature. I wanted to go out, but I wanted *him* to suggest it. I wanted, in fact, for him to read my mind.
No surprise: this did not work very well. After slamming around the pots for a while, I finally stormed down the hall and announced angrily that I was NOT cooking dinner. My husband looked up from his studies. “What’s the matter?” he asked.
I was furious, first that he hadn’t figured it out for himself and second, that he had such a great ability to ignore me when I was upset.
Eventually, we went out for burgers.
It was years before I understood how devastated I felt when I thought I wasn’t being heard or taken seriously, a result in part of our different approaches to dealing with each other’s needs. I also learned that expecting someone to read my mind was not going to be productive or get me what I needed.
Clearly, what we had here was a failure to communicate. But I don’t want that to be my epitaph. I have started checking Facebook every day.



January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">1</p> <p style="color: #800000; margin: 0;"><i>New Year's Day</i> Winter Recess</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">2</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Office Closed</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Office Closed</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">4</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">5</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">6</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #0000FF; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%; color: #0000FF;">Shabbat Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Family Service 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">7</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Lay Leader Torah Study 10:00 a.m.</div>																																																																																																		
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">8</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Adult Education w/Rabbi Dean 10:15 a.m.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0000FF; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%; color: #0000FF;">Mazel Tots 10:00 am - 12 noon</div> <p style="margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Religious School</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">9</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Office Closed</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">10</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Office Closed</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">11</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.</div>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">12</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">13</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: #800000; margin: 0;">14</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #0000FF; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%; color: #0000FF;">Kieran Kemp's Bar Mitzvah - 10:00 a.m.</div>																																																																																																		
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February 2012

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<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">12</div> <div style="color: red; font-style: italic; font-size: small;"> Lincoln's Birthday Religious School </div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">13</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; font-size: small;"> Office Closed </div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">14</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; font-size: small;"> Office Closed <div style="color: red; font-style: italic; font-size: x-small;">Valentine's Day</div> </div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">15</div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">16</div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">17</div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; font-size: small;"> 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service </div>	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">18</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; font-size: small;"> Lay Leader Torah Study 10:00 a.m. </div>																																																																																		
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January 2012
Tevet-Shevat 5772

Important Message From the Shofar Administration:

The Deadline is the deadline is the deadline!!!! Submissions are due no later than the 10th day of the month preceding the upcoming issue. Deadline for the February issue is January 10, 2012. Deadline for the March issue is February 10, 2012 and so it goes!!!

PURIM CARNIVAL

The Purim Carnival is Sunday, March 4. Save the date and plan to:

Come to the carnival:

Eat. Schmooze. Play games. Shop. Meet new and old friends.

Support the Silent Auction:

Start thinking now about how you can help and what you can donate.

Help Out:

Volunteer. Bake for the bake sale. Sell raffle tickets.

