



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2011

SHEVAT 5771 - ADAR 1 5771

Temple Talk

For Us the Living By: Rabbi Tracy Nathan

In his speech given at the memorial service held at the University of Arizona following the shooting in Tucson that killed six people and injured U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and 13 others, President Obama spoke of the inspiring lives of those who were killed and the heroic actions of ordinary citizens:

“Their actions, their selflessness poses a challenge to each of us. It raises a question of what, beyond prayers and expressions of concern, is required of us going forward. How can we honor the fallen? How can we be true to their memory?”

His words evoked President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address:

“It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full

measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.....”

Though the news of this tragic event will soon pass in the media, I hope that we take the President’s words to heart and find ways - personally and nationally- to honor the fallen and “be true to their memory.”

The Rambam in the first chapter of Hilchot Ta’anit of his Mishneh Torah suggests that those who do not respond to tragedy with self and societal soul-searching act with cruelty. If a nation is unchanged after a national tragedy – then the tragedy remains senseless and meaningless. The Rambam saw tragedy as a vehicle for repair and transforming ourselves for the better.

Whatever caused the gunman to open fire on fellow human beings is complicated and should open up productive discussions on mental health approaches, gun

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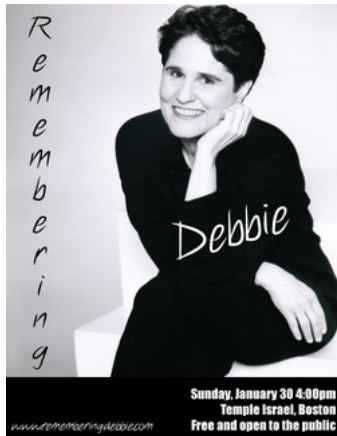
9:30am - 12:30pm

Upcoming Events

Rabbi Tracy Nathan & Ellen Band together again - *Ki Tissa* Shabbat Feb 19
Purim - Saturday March 19th at 7:30pm
Concert - with Hankus Netsky - Sunday April 3rd
Passover Seder - Tuesday April 20th

Marks Remarks: She Dances Toward the Light: Remembering Debbie Friedman

by Mark Frydenberg



Debbie Friedman died at daybreak on Sunday, January 11. Debbie Friedman was a singer/song writer credited with introducing a contemporary style to American Jewish music that has spread from summer camps to synagogues of all denominations. Anyone growing up attending a Reform Synagogue in the 1970's and 80s knew of her. One tribute stated that "she probably has revolutionized Jewish liturgy in a way no other artist has since Shlomo Carlebach." She was the most well known and influential composer of Jewish music and liturgy in the United States. Another tribute called her "the Elvis of reform and conservative congregations."

The Jerusalem Post said that "Friedman's music is performed in synagogues around the world more than that of any other modern composer." Her most well known song is a setting of Mi Shebeirach, the prayer for healing. Her English lyrics are simple and authentic: "May the source of strength, who blessed the ones before us help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing, and let us say Amen. Bless those in need of healing with Refuah Shleimah, renewal of body, renewal of spirit, and let us say Amen." As evidence of its popularity and impact on American Jews across all denominations, these words are included in the Conservative movement's new machzor .

"Nobody changed Jewish liturgy in the last 200 years like Debbie Friedman did in the last 40," said one tribute. Debbie Friedman placed English words alongside the traditional Hebrew, and included feminine voices where they weren't previously heard. She referred to her song "L'chi Lach" a midrash on the Torah Portion

"Lech L'cha/ Go Forth.")

I first heard Debbie Friedman's music at Shabbat services at Hillel when I was in college, and saw her perform in concert at Brandeis and other places in the Boston area several times. Her concerts and her music filled the room with energy and spirit. Her lyrics and her melodies touched many lives.

Throughout the day, updates on the facebook and twitter social networks spread the word that the JCC in Manhattan would be broadcasting a live memorial service on the Internet that evening. Almost 3200 people from all over the world watched and listened to the memorial service from their computers, along with an in-person audience of over 400 people at the JCC. Two days later, over 7,000 people watched as her funeral was broadcast live from California on the Internet.

In chat rooms, facebook, and on twitter, the conversation flowed during both events as viewers identified themselves and their locations. I watched as former summer campers, rabbis, cantors, and friends rediscovered each other behind their online personae. As the leaders were singing the final line of Mi Shebeirach, "and let us say Amen", several online participants typed "Amen" in the chat window in unity with those attending the event in person. Many shared phrases from Debbie's songs that in this context, conveyed blessings on her memory. "May you be blessed as you go on your way," (a verse from her Tefilat HaDerech/Traveler's Prayer song), one person wrote. "She dances toward the light" (a verse from her song about Miriam the Prophetess), said another. People on the online chat room talked about organizing community memorials in their own towns. Rabbi David Paskin of Canton, MA announced the web site "rememberingdebbie.com" for sharing remembrances and announcing other memorial events.

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Marks Remarks:
She Dances Toward the Light: Remembering
Debbie Friedman
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It was amazing to watch as people gathered in spirit, if not in person. Shawn Landres, a religious studies expert and community organizer in California posted on Twitter: “Anyone who doubts the power of online prayer should watch the recording and chat log” of Debbie Friedman’s memorial service live broadcast. Another viewer said “this is part of being part of the Jewish community.”

May she be blessed as she goes on her way.

Friday Night Services

We will be holding Friday Night Services the Third Friday of the month on February 18th at 6:30pm

We Need Minyanaires

Services are held at 7:00am on weekdays (except Tuesday) and at 9:00am on weekends & holidays.

Kaddish

We are not able to guarantee a minyan at each morning service, so if you need a minyan on a particular day to recite Kaddish, please let the Temple know at least 2 days prior.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Saturday February 19th

Join Rabbi Tracy Nathan and Cantor Ellen Band who will be leading services together on Saturday, February 19th, for Parashat Ki Tisa.

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accessibility and control, and other public discourse on a level, as President Obama said so eloquently, “worthy of those we have lost.”

But beyond this, the context of the shooting should not be lost. This was a scene of democracy at its best. In describing this scene – shattered by a gunman’s bullets – President Obama reminded us that it is not just those who die on the battlefield for whom we might take, in President Lincoln’s words, “increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion.”

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is a member of the inaugural class of the Aspen-Rodel Fellowship for young leaders. Her classmates noted that on the first day, she remarked, “We don’t spend enough time talking to our neighbors; we need more front porches – more open conversation.” (“On the Front Porch with Gabby,” Huffington Post, January 14, 2011). She regretted the tone of public discourse in Congress and in the media because although democracy demands vigorous debate, the tone and lack of respect prevents parties from listening to one another and the possibility of being shaped by one another’s thoughtful opinions.

The people who came together for Rep. Giffords’ “Congress on Your Corner” were participating in that open dialogue and conversation necessary for democracy. Rep. Giffords and those gathered were listening to one another. It is for us the living to reflect upon their devoted actions and begin the work of repair and only then can true healing begin.

-Rabbi Tracy Nathan

You may reach Rabbi Nathan at
rabbinathan@tbiwaltham.org
781-894-5146

February Yahrzeits

Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date	Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date
2-2	Solomon Harris	30-Jan Shevat 25	5-4	Edward Gilman	21-Feb Adar I 17
5-2	Maurry Furman	31-Jan Shevat 26	3-2	Yetta Fischer	22-Feb Adar I 18
	William Becker	31-Jan Shevat 26	3-1	Fannie Beecher	23-Feb Adar I 19
5-3	Dorothy Ullian	1-Feb Shevat 27	4-2	Gertrude Levison	23-Feb Adar I 19
1-4	Sylvia Weinstein	1-Feb Shevat 27		Louis Freedman	23-Feb Adar I 19
4-2	Florence Lipkin	1-Feb Shevat 27	6-3	Bernard Sharfman	24-Feb Adar I 20
2-3	Louis Nochemsohn	1-Feb Shevat 27	1-3	Alex Lietsky	24-Feb Adar I 20
1-2	Sarah Mindel Freedman	1-Feb Shevat 27	3-2	Jennie Goldberg	26-Feb Adar I 22
1-3	Sarah Milesky	1-Feb Shevat 27	6-4	Sal Araten	26-Feb Adar I 22
5-1	Irving Norman	1-Feb Shevat 27	3-2	Dora Milesky	26-Feb Adar I 22
5-1	Mildred Rothbart	3-Feb Shevat 29	3-1	Rose Nussinow	27-Feb Adar I 23
4-3	Fannie Blackstone	5-Feb Adar I 01	2-1	Rose Braverman	1-Mar Adar I 25
6-3	Abigail Decker	5-Feb Adar I 01	1-1	Annie Alpert	2-Mar Adar I 26
1-3	Jacob Krinsky	7-Feb Adar I 03	1-2	Aaron Greenblott	3-Mar Adar I 27
4-2	Benson Griff	8-Feb Adar I 04	3-4	Rose Wolk	3-Mar Adar I 27
2-1	Harry Canter	8-Feb Adar I 04		Sandra Gustin	3-Mar Adar I 27
1-1	Vittal Crevoshay	9-Feb Adar I 05	1-3	Bessie Levison	4-Mar Adar I 28
3-2	Saul G. Ginsburg	9-Feb Adar I 05	2-4	Harry Wolf	4-Mar Adar I 28
6-3	Ruth Gordon	10-Feb Adar I 06	2-4	Lena Smith	5-Mar Adar I 29
5-4	Philip Rosenfield	10-Feb Adar I 06	2-4	Alice Wolf Cohen	5-Mar Adar I 29
6-4	Jacob Shay	10-Feb Adar I 06	2-4	Aaron Mordecai Smith	5-Mar Adar I 29
5-3	Maurice Katz	10-Feb Adar I 06	3-3	Benjamin Lebowitz	7-Mar Adar II 01
2-3	Arthur Nochemsohn	11-Feb Adar I 07	2-4	Abraham Tatelman	7-Mar Adar II 01
4-4	Marsha Goldstein	11-Feb Adar I 07	1-2	Robert Gordon	7-Mar Adar II 01
6-4	Minnie Milesky	12-Feb Adar I 08	1-2	Harry Freedman	7-Mar Adar II 01
1-1	Yetta Blackstone	14-Feb Adar I 10	4-3	Goldie Rachel Webb	7-Mar Adar II 01
3-1	Samuel Margolis	14-Feb Adar I 10			
2-3	Louis Michelson	14-Feb Adar I 10			
4-1	Harold Katz	14-Feb Adar I 10			
2-4	Frieda Resnick	15-Feb Adar I 11			
	Rose Cohen	15-Feb Adar I 11			
2-1	David Beecher	15-Feb Adar I 11			
	Neil Baker	16-Feb Adar I 12			
6-3	Ann Wolf	17-Feb Adar I 13			
3-3	Joseph Harris	17-Feb Adar I 13			
	Ira David Seltzer	18-Feb Adar I 14			
	Harris Griff	18-Feb Adar I 14			
6-3	William Milesky	19-Feb Adar I 15			
2-4	Max Ritter	19-Feb Adar I 15			
4-1	Philip Shapiro	20-Feb Adar I 16			

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one listed above please send it along with a brief note of who you would like remembered to the Temple Office.



Donations

Harold Weiner
 Steven Chilton
 Hella Hakerem
 Estate of Herman Leo Myers
 Mitchell Freeman

Tamar Jasper, in honor of Surella Seelig.

Jeanne Kaswell Sager, in memory of Ernest Kaswell.

Lillian Etkind and Family, in memory of Irving Etkind.

Esther Davidson, in memory of her mother Ethel Potash.

Rhoda and Martin Koocher, in memory of Harry Cohen, father of Rhoda Koocher and Jacob Koocher, father of Martin Koocher.

Hannah Handel, in memory of Julius Handel.

Vadim Bubes & Velizaveta Goltser, in memory of Maria & Nicholas Goltser and Judith Kilman & Jacob Bubes.

Helene and Charles Altman, in memory of Sylvia Kurtzman.

Lowell Bensky in appreciation for welcoming him to our Shabbat services and morning minyan.

Steven and Peggy Stroum, in memory of Lillian Stroum.

George Kaitz in memory of his loved ones.

Jan Schwartz, in honor of Morris Hollender.

Rabbi's Fund

Catherine Cantrell

Condolences

To the Tushin Family on the loss of their mother, Gail Tushin.

In Memory Of

In memory of Esther Davidson's brother, Louis Potash from Judy Didio and Alex Melamed.

Carl Goldstein Memorial Fund

Janice and Stanley Goldstein

Saturday Kiddush Sponsors

January 29 - in honor of Caroline Nudelman's Birthday

Feb 12 - in honor of Morris Hollender's Birthday



FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK

Temple Beth Israel - Waltham, MA is now a group on Facebook. Check us out here:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=151997345857>

February 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	1 Adar I
		27 Shevat	28 Shevat	29 Shevat	30 Shevat	
				4:44pm		Rosh Chodesh
				Rosh Chodesh		Terumah-Rabbi Tracy Nathan leads services
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2 Adar I	3 Adar I	4 Adar I	5 Adar I	6 Adar I	7 Adar I	8 Adar I
					4:53pm	Tetzaveh
						Member Led Services
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 Adar I	10 Adar I	11 Adar I	12 Adar I	13 Adar I	14 Adar I	15 Adar I
					Service/Dinner 6:30pm	Ki Tisa
					5:02pm	Rabbi Tracy Nathan - & Cantor Ellen Band Lead Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
16 Adar I	17 Adar I	18 Adar I	19 Adar I	20 Adar I	21 Adar I	22 Adar I
	Presidents' Day				5:11pm	Vayakhel
						Member Led Services
27	28					
23 Adar I	24 Adar I					

Welcome Shabbat with Services and Community Dinner at Temple Beth Israel

Join us for Shabbat.



Friday Evening: February 18th & March 18th

Services: 6:30 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

\$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Welcome Shabbat with a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30 pm, led by **Rabbi Tracy Nathan**, followed by a home-cooked dinner at 7:30 pm, singing, and good conversation. **Reserve now!** Payment must be received by Thursday morning, the day before the dinner you are attending. (Sorry, no refunds are given if you are unable to attend after your payment is received, you can apply the funds to a future date.)

PURIM

is Saturday night, March 19



Our evening begins with Maariv at 7:30 pm. A complete Hebrew Megillah Reading (with English subtitles) will begin by 8 pm, followed by triangular refreshments and an open mic/talent show. Call the Temple office if you'd like to read a chapter of the Megillah or show us your hidden talents.

HANKUS NETSKY in CONCERT

Sunday, April 3

Save the date for another wonderful concert with Hankus Netsky and Morris Hollender.



In case of inclement weather, weekday morning minyans are cancelled if the opening of Waltham Public Schools are delayed, or if Waltham

Public Schools are closed. Please listen to the WBZ for storm cancellations on mornings of inclement weather.

PASSOVER SEDER



Save the date for a second seder at TBI on Tuesday, April 19th. The time, cost, and other details will be announced in the March newsletter. We need help cooking, shopping, kashering the kitchen, setting tables, serving, cleaning up, and participating in the service. How would you like to help out? Please contact Marilyn Racette jr9670@aol.com or the Temple office if you'd like to get involved in planning the Seder.

On Shabbat evening and mornings, any decision to cancel services due to inclement weather will be made by Friday at 3pm. We will notify the congregation by email, and update the message on the Temple answering machine.

If in doubt, stay safe and stay home.

Temple Beth Israel

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- Morris Hollender Music Appreciation Fund
- Carl Goldstein Memorial Fund
- Other, please specify: _____

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to:
Temple Beth Israel, P O Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182

I have chosen the fund indicated at the right:

(Please use a separate form for each fund. Minimum donation: \$10)

Attached is my check in the amount of: \$ _____

The donation is being made

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Other _____

This donation is made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____