

MINYAN OCCASIONALLY

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Adar/5759

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ON PURIM *Dos and Don'ts*

An Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Library Minyan Steering Committee to consider improvements in our Purim and Simchat Torah Services met in January. This committee considered issues relating to excessive drinking, drinking by minors and decorum. The committee members included a teenager, the chair of the ritual committee, parents and longtime minyan members.

It was emphatically not the committee's purpose to propose major changes in our services for these two holy days. The consensus was that they are among the best celebrations of these holidays available this side of the Hudson River.

The following suggestions have been adopted by the committee. Library Minyan members are urged to support these minor changes for our safety and enjoyment of the celebrations.

- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Alcoholic beverages should be kept in the possession of those who brought them or on one table. Volunteers will be recruited to stay at this table as "bartenders", both to assist those imbibing and to assure that minors are not drinking excessively without the knowledge and consent of their parent(s), and that people who are likely to be driving that evening do not get drunk.

- **ALCOHOL ON THE BIMA AND AMUD**

Alcoholic Beverages should generally not be drunk on the Bima or at the Amud (table) used for reading the Torah or the Megillah. At no time is it appropriate to swig hard liquor from a bottle or have bottles of liquor on the Amud or Bima.

- **ALCOHOL AND MINORS**

It is not our intention to prevent minors from drinking at all, however, it is parents' responsibility to monitor this sort of activity.

- **EMPTY LIQUOR/WINE BOTTLES**

Empty bottles should be adequately discarded. Children should not be given empty bottles to "pretend" to drink from, to tie to Tallitot or to refill with water.

- **DRINKING AND DRIVING**

We do not want to be responsible for tragic events that result from drinking and driving. Please be sure to have a designated driver if you are planning on consuming alcoholic beverages.

(continued on page 4, see "ALCOHOL IN SHUL")

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MICROPHONE FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS A SUCCESS

As voted in the minyan meeting on October 18, 1998, the following letter was sent to Hazzan Jeremy Lipton on November 8, 1998:

"On behalf of the Library Minyan, we would like to thank you for your indispensable help in supplying the Library Minyan with its new amplification capability. As you are well aware, the Library Minyan often has stringent requirements, and the results of the recent balloting mandated no less. Your eagerness to lead us through the implementation of the ballot's decree and the expertise you brought to it transformed what could have been a tense and hurried process into a professionally and insightfully conducted one. The overwhelming favorable response to the microphone and amplification system during the recent Yamim Nora'im was the final proof of the pudding (or kugel, to be appropriately ethnic about it).

In appreciation of your help, the Library Minyan also voted (at the meeting held on October 18) to approve a contribution to your Music Fund. A check from the Library Minyan

account for \$100 is enclosed with this letter."

We received this reply from Hazzan Lipton:

"Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to the Temple Beth Am Music Fund in recognition of the recent implementation of the new microphone in the Dorff-Nelson Chapel. You can be assured that this donation will be used in support of the synagogue's music programs, which are so vital to the community.

It is music's singular voice that awakens great emotions within each of us, and it is music's unique beauty which traditionally enhances every Jewish life-cycle event.

It was certainly my greatest pleasure to help the Library Minyan fulfill their mandate for sound amplification in the Chapel. I hope that you will continue to call upon me in whatever capacity might benefit our entire membership.

B'shalom,
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton

LIBRARY MINYAN WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Library Minyan would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members:

Deborah Bronner, Philip Bachrach and their children, Joseph and Joshua Bachrach

Yitzhak Koren

Elisa Rapaport and Michael Schoenbaum

Steve Rothstein

Neal Sokol

Dafna and Scott Taryle

Virginia Tzadok



TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of the Library Minyan, I want to thank the following for their contributions to the Library Minyan treasury:

SIMCHAT TORAH PLEDGES: Joan Glanz Rimmon, Jonathan Freidman, Sharon and Jonathan Swerdlow

DONATIONS FOR ALIYOT HONORS: Ellen Brosbe, Yona Leonard and Anita Feldman

Avi and Loretta Engel and family: in memory of the mother of J. Paul Levine
Jeffrey and Esther Fisk: in memory of the father of Alvin Solomon; mazal tov to Karen Neumann on the occasion of her daughter's Bat Mitzvah

Rosanne Keynan and Jonathan Flier: in memory of the mother of Luis Lainer, in honor of Frankie and Russ Meppen's new granddaughter, in honor of the birth of Rabbi Joel and Fredi's grandson and the marriage of their daughter Yona.

Eric Lesin: in memory of Alfred Rosenberg, father of Carol Rosenberg

Esther Lerner Brenner: to Joel and Fran Grossman, in memory of their fathers, to Hannah and Marshall Kramer, in memory of their fathers, to Val Goldstein, in memory of her father, James Jonas, to Rabbi Joel and Fredi Rembaum, in memory of their fathers, Eli Rembaum and Harry Breverman, to Lynn Beliak, in memory of her brother, Rabbi Marty Ballinoff to Luis Lainer, in memory of his mother, Sara, to Rabbi Elliot and Marlyn Dorff, in memory of your parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sol Dorff, to Linda Bunnage, in memory of William Rozzen, in honor of the birth of Yonina Raisel Brenner and her big sister, Morrissa, in honor of Rabbis David and Jackie Ellenson and family, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ma'ayan Friedman, daughter of Esther and Eddie Friedman, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sigi Ziering

Deborah Cohen: in honor of Bar Mitzvah of Benjy Braun, in honor of Shira Rosenblatt on the completion of her graduate program

The Lippman and Kamin family: in honor of the bat mitzvah of Rachel Sohn Firestone, thank you for the gift from Dr. Avi Havivi, to Lynn Beliak in honor of your special birthday, in memory of Lynn Beliak's brother, to Dr. and Mrs. Michael Berenbaum, in honor of the new baby, to Benjy Braun in honor of your bar mitzvah, in memory of Karen Neumann's father, to Mr. and Mrs. Alan Paul, in memory of Alan's brother, Jeff, in memory of Joel Grossman's father, to Brad and Sharon Grob in honor of the new baby, in memory of Marshall Kramer's father, in memory of Joel Stern's father, in honor of bat mitzvah of Ma'ayan Friedman, in memory of Val Godlstein's father, to welcome the new baby of Miriam and Mark Hess

Cathy Lippman and family: to Ms. Sabina Lebovits-Bronner, in honor of your birthday
Harry Brenner: in memory of Linda Bunnage, in honor of Shirley Ashkenas as new President of the Associates of the Jewish home for the Aged

Shira Rosenblatt, Elon Sunshine and Arielle Sunshine: in honor of the birth of Larry and Abby Harris's baby girl, Debra and Jerrold Abeles's baby boy, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Berenbaum's baby boy

Thanks to everyone for your most generous donations. Mail future donations to Temple Beth Am (mention the Library Minyan or Library Minyan Kiddush Fund) or mail directly to Dale Bodenstein 1121 South Spaulding Ave., L.A., CA 90019 ☺

MINYAN MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Library Minyan was held to discuss various issues brought to the Steering Committee. The following are the minutes from the October 18, 1998, meeting of the Library Minyan of Temple Beth Am.

Attendance: Stan Goldstein, Chair, Dale Bodenstein, Alan Broidy, Joan Rimmon, Barry Shapiro, Avi Havivi, Paul Nisenbaum, Marshall Kramer, Fran Grossman, Joe Nimoy, Marizon Nimoy, Jonathan Friedman, Norm Green, Larry Harris

\$100 was allocated to Hazzan Lipton's Music Fund as a thank you for his help in providing a microphone for the High Holidays. (see article in this *Minyan Occasionally!*)

RITUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The use of the new Siddur Sim Shalom was discussed. Since no one present except Avi Havivi had seen one, the issue was tabled for the Ritual Committee.

The issue of drinking alcoholic beverages in the Chapel during Simchat Torah was raised by Fran Grossman. The group agreed that the Minyan needs to consider the total issue of what is appropriate behavior on Simchat Torah and Purim. Norm Green offered to chair a separate committee to address these issues. (see article in this *Minyan Occasionally!*)

Avi Havivi proposed that the Minyan consider changing from our current practice of reading Torah according to the triennial cycle to reading the full Torah portion each week. Avi also proposed that the Minyan try this out for a period of time before making a final determination. (see article in this *Minyan Occasionally!*) After a lengthy discussion, the following proposal was negotiated and voted upon: The trial period for a full Kriya would be for a full Sefer and begin with Sefer Shemot. Preceding the trial period would be some discussion in the Minyan probably via D'rashot of the pros and cons of a full Kriya. The Minyan would then vote by mail ballot to decide whether to proceed with the trial period. This vote would need to be by Dec. 20 in order to start the trial with the beginning of Sefer Shemot. The ballot would include dividing the trial period into three parts: no other changes made to the length of the Shabbat service, starting at 9:30 AM, and starting at 9:45 AM with an abbreviated Pesukei D'zimra. The vote on the above proposal was: five (5) in favor, seven (7) opposed. ✎

UPDATE ON TRIENNIAL VS. FULL TORAH READING

On October 18, 1998, an open meeting of the Library Minyan membership was held. The agenda item that occupied most of the meeting was the question of considering a trial of a full weekly Torah reading rather than our current triennial cycle. After much debate, a motion was made to put a mail vote of the entire Minyan membership, the question of whether or not to adopt a full weekly Torah reading this year for the book of Exodus (approximately 2 1/2 months). With the following changes made to assess more fully the impact

this would have on the pacing of our Shabbat morning service: For the first third of Exodus, no change in the service other than doing the full Torah reading; for the second third of Exodus, starting services 15 minutes earlier (9:30); and for the last third, doing an abbreviated version of Pesukei D'zimra. The intent of the motion was to give the Minyan membership the opportunity to decide if it wanted to try out a full Torah reading on a limited experimental basis, and to experience different ways of how this might impact on the timing and pacing

•ALCOHOL IN SHUL *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

• NONALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

We will attempt to provide adequate quantity of a variety of nonalcoholic liquid refreshments (i.e., juice, soda and water) so that participants will have them available as an option. Members are encouraged to bring such refreshments, as well. Tables for these refreshments will be placed at convenient locations, such as the lobby and the rear of the chapel. The Minyan Kiddush fund will be use for this.

• NEITHER BOTTLES NOR OTHER ITEMS SHOULD BE TIED TO TALLITOT.

OTHER ISSUES ADDRESSED

• **SNACKS AND FOOD**Parents are urged to bring food for snacks for their children on Simchat Torah, because the service in long.

• APPLES ON FLAGS

Flags will not be distributed on Simchat Torah, because they are dangerous. (On Simchat Torah, children will be given Hershey's Chocolate candy bars--if shul allows)

Norm Green, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee *✡*

Prayer for the New Month

Avi Havivi

After my D'var Torah, several months ago, a number of people came up to me to ask for a written version of my translation of the Prayer for the New Month. The original prayer was composed by Rav, a Babylonian sage of the 3rd century. and is found in the Talmud (Berachot 16b). My loose traslation follows the commentary of Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook.

May it be Your will, Hashem our G-d and G-d of our ancestors, that You grant us a new month of goodness and blessing.

Grant us a full life:

A life of inner harmony and good fortune

A life in which we bring blessing to the world

A life of ease

A life full of vigor to serve you

A life in which our lust for life is tempered with restraint

A life in which we bring no hishonor on ourselves

A life in which comfort can be gained honorably

A life in which we strive to emulate You, even though we do not understand You

A life in which our strivings bring us closer to Your ultimate purpose

Amen selah. *✡*

Full Torah Reading *continued from PAGE 4*

of the service, after which members might have a better sense of whether they wished to continue with a full Torah reading or not. The motion was defeated by a vote of 7 to 5, and so the full Minyan will not vote on the proposed experiment. The status quo will remain until such time as a majority membership meeting votes otherwise. *✡*



THE LIBRARY MINYAN PRESENTS

"The Whole Megillah"

Monday, March 1, 1999

7:15 p.m.

Beth Am Chapel

Libations and Refreshments

(read enclosed info regarding alcoholic beverages in the chapel)

If you are 20, 30 or 40 something.

(sorry, no children permitted)

The Celebration Continues...

with

Ma'agal Purim Party

Single Malt Tasting (cash bar)

Sundae Bar

Light Refreshments

for more information, call Julie Koslow at (310) 360-9323