



KOL TIKVAH

THE VOICE OF HOPE



TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH

900 47th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta • T2S 3C8 • Tel: (403)252-1654 • Fax: (403)252-1709 • email:office@bnaitikvah.ca

Affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism and the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism

**Sivan — Tammuz 5775
June 2015**



D'VAR HA RAV: RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Howard
Voss-Altman

Last month, the Pew Research Center — an organization specializing in the study of religion and public life — issued the results of a landmark survey documenting the role of organized religion in the United States. You might remember — just two years ago — the Pew's survey of the American Jewish community, which revealed that the "unaffiliated" or as the survey called them, "the nones" are currently the second largest category of the Jewish people. Jewish leaders from every movement were (and are) distressed by these findings, although no one who's been watching the state of Judaism over the past few decades can be particularly surprised.

It turns out — based on the Pew's latest study — that the trends in the Jewish community closely parallel the trends of society in general. The "nones" in Christianity have also claimed second place, now firmly ahead of Catholicism and mainline Protestants. The only group more popular than "the nones" are evangelical Christians, who now claim the title of the largest affiliated religious movement in the U.S. These results reveal a very different nation than the one often described in the media (where religious extremity is often highlighted to attract the most attention), a nation becoming more secular with each passing year. And it also must be noted that these trends were not just found along the liberal West coast or Northeastern regions. The survey noted that the rise in secularity was found across the geographical map, from Alabama to Washington State, from Texas to Minnesota. In this age of uncertainty and anxiety (traditionally a time when religious affiliation grows) more people are turning away from organized religion than ever before.

In post-war North America, when religious affiliation was at its peak, the most centrist movements were the largest. These were days of prosperity and conformity, and with the rise of suburban living, most families — Jewish and Christian — wanted to be like their neighbours and attend a religious institution. The Conservative movement was the largest in Judaism by a wide margin, and likewise, the United Church assumed the mantle of the religious voice of Canada. Indeed, mainstream religious growth was so phenomenal during this era that the United Church estimated that it was constructing — on average — one religious building per week — a simply staggering statistic. Today, the United Church — and other mainline Protestant movements — are barely surviving, with closings, consolidations, and church pews that often resemble senior living facilities.

What's happened to organized religion? Or perhaps a better question is, what's happened to us? Well, to put it simply, truth is not what it used to be. The institutions we once trusted — government, business, religion, media, law — are now viewed with skepticism, and in some circles, outright suspicion. Unlike our parents, we no longer believe what we are told, and with the help of an omniscient Internet, we have all the evidence we need to support our own opinions. "Why should I believe my Prime Minister? Why should I believe my priest or my rabbi

continued on page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Rabbi's Message	Cover
Lifecycle Events	2
President's Message	4
Yahrzeits	5
Donations	6-7
Calendar	Insert



Check out our Facebook page for more updates!

bnaitikvah.ca

...continued from cover

or my minister? Do they have access to material or information that I can't find?" Indeed, a growing minority of people feel that religion is not only "not for them," but that the world would be much better off without religion at all.

And so the question remains, how should we address this post-modern malaise? While I certainly don't have all the answers (indeed, I'm much more comfortable raising questions than providing answers), I believe we need to begin with integrity. Reform Judaism — in its approach to Torah, liturgy, social justice, and Israel — has, for the most part, presented its views with authenticity and conviction. Our emphasis on autonomy, personal choice, inclusivity, and the recognition that truth is a search and not an end, addresses Jewish life not from a position of authority, but rather from a modern, informed, and open perspective. We thrive on dissent and discovery, and as we search for something approximating wisdom, we build a Temple community of meaning and shared values. It's not always easy, and the bonds occasionally fray, but we remain committed to the process — a process that gives us the history and context for our lives.

As I near the end of my tenure here at Temple, I have more belief than ever that our community will thrive and flourish. As long as we continue to support the Temple, as long as it remains our Jewish home, as long as we continue to search for wisdom in the midst of uncertainty, and as long as we continue to perform the mitzvot of tikkun olam, our future, as a Jewish community, will be blessed with strength and hope.

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

Mazel Tov

- Lisa Yanofsky-Potvin and Dave Potvin on the birth of their son, Samuel George Potvin, a brother to Evan. Proud grandparents are Marlene and Norm Yanofsky
- Susan and Myron Podlog on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily
- Alexander Gerov and Liliya Ushurova on the birth of their son
- Maddie Burns on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah
- Adi Altman on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah
- Liliya Ushurova on her conversion to Judaism
- Gabriele Cohen on her conversion to Judaism
- Rabbi Rick Kline on his ordination from Hebrew College in Boston

Condolences

- Rebecca Krel and family on the loss of Rebecca's mother, Renee Krel
- Peta Glezerson and family on the loss of Peta's father, David Pincus
- Amy O'Reilly on the loss of her father, Gerald Lazarowicz
- Carolyn Devins on the loss of her father, Allan Devins

Healing Prayers

David Adelman	Harvey Balakofsky	Allan Bambury
Sherry Bambury	Arnold Black	Shirley Dunn
Aron Eichler	Eric Greif	Raymond Harrell Jr.
Bob Herman	Marc O'Connor	Martin Stoffman
Clara Chames Szulc	Ephraim Meyer ben Devorah	Steve Kuti
Evy Carnat	Bea Herz	

Todah Rabah

- Michelle Gutkin and Cory Burns for sponsoring an Oneg in honour of their daughter Maddie's Bat Mitzvah
- Rabbi Howard and Annie Voss-Altman for sponsoring an Oneg in honour of their daughter Adi's Bat Mitzvah
- Betsy Jameson for sponsoring a Shabbat Shiraz wine and cheese in memory of her mother, Grace Jameson
- Eric and Dedre Toker for sponsoring an Oneg in honour of their son Eli's Bar Mitzvah
- Shaun Eccles, Melvin and Carla Pasternak, and Rabbi Oren and Adar Steinitz for sponsoring an Oneg in honour of Karry Taylor chanting Torah
- Rhonda and Rick Zabrodski for sponsoring an Oneg in memory of Rhonda's mother, Alice Gotlieb
- Paul Ziff for sponsoring an Oneg in memory of his father, Louis Ziff

NOTES FROM THE TEMPLE OFFICE

Annual General Meeting

The Temple's AGM will be held Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary, followed by light refreshments in the foyer. The agenda and proposed slate for the 2015-2016 Board of Trustees were sent out to all members the last week in May. Further to the special resolution which was passed at last year's AGM, these documents were sent by email to all members who have consented to receiving email communications from the Temple.

Tribute Cards

Remember a special occasion by sending a personalized mazel tov, to express your condolences to a friend, or for any other reason, and help out your Temple at the same time. To send a card, please contact the Temple office. We can help you decide to which of our many funds you might want to direct your donation. The suggested minimum donation is \$18.00.

Oneg Sponsorship

The Friday evening Oneg Shabbat gives our members an opportunity to gather socially after the Shabbat service. We invite our members to sponsor or co-sponsor an Oneg. Some members choose to sponsor the Oneg in memory of a loved one whose Yahrzeit is being observed. Others sponsor in celebration of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a special birthday or anniversary, an upcoming wedding or for no special reason at all! The Temple office staff takes care of all the details, and the cost of the Oneg (\$180) is tax-receiptable. If you are interested in sponsoring an Oneg, please contact the Temple office at 403-252-1654 or office@bnaitikvah.ca.

Pizza Parties and Shabbat Shiraz

We are also looking for sponsors for the pizza meal which is served prior to our monthly Family Shabbat service on the first Friday of the month, and for the Shabbat Shiraz fruit/cheese/crackers 'spread' which is held just before our musical Shabbat service on the fourth Friday of the month. The cost of the pizza party is \$250 and the Shabbat Shiraz gathering costs \$54. Both are tax-receiptable. The Temple office takes care of the details for you.

Safeway Grocery Cards

We have a limited number of grocery cards available for sale in the Temple office in denominations of \$25, \$100 and \$250. They can be purchased during regular office hours. Co-op cards may still be ordered on a monthly basis; contact the Temple office to place your order.

TEMPLE LIFE

This year's Introduction to Judaism class — a cornerstone of Temple's adult education programming — wrapped up a successful 8-month program of study on May 26th.



THE KOL TIKVAH TEAM

NON-MEMBERS KOL TIKVAH
SUBSCRIPTION \$30 PER YEAR

Rabbi: Howard Voss-Altman
rabbi@bnaitikvah.ca

President: Steve Eichler
president@bnaitikvah.ca

Executive Director: Danny Oppenheim
ed@bnaitikvah.ca

Administrator: Jane Paterson
office@bnaitikvah.ca

Bookkeeper: Debbie Bosomworth
bookkeeper@bnaitikvah.ca

Kol Tikvah Editor and Layout: Karry Taylor
editor@bnaitikvah.ca

Kol Tikvah Website: Karry Taylor

Volunteer Kol Tikvah Proofreaders:
Allan Bell, Marcia Bell, Elaine Hashman,
Katherine Jacob, Tess Morgenstern-McCormick,
Sharon Polsky, and Alex Zisman



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Eichler

*...A friend who taught me right from wrong,
And weak from strong — that's a lot to learn
But what can I give you in return?*

-Lulu, To Sir, With Love

T.S. Eliot may have been wrong: for us, June is the cruelest month. In the next few weeks, we must bid a heavy-hearted *I'hitra'ot* to friends, teachers, family. We've known for some time that Rabbi Howard would be heading off, as Providence would have it. But we also take a moment to mark the departure of our teachers and friends, Esther Silver and Rabbi Oren Steinitz.

Esther Silver has for many years been not only a valued member of our Temple community and the greater Jewish community, she has been a tireless, creative force behind our Shabbat School. Instrumental in the exponential growth of the school, there are so many in our community whose connection to Temple, whose early feelings of warm and happy connectedness to Judaism can be traced to Esther's warm and welcoming smile. Of course, Esther's academic

talents are not only shared with our community; she has been a long-time teacher at the Calgary Jewish Academy, a role in which she literally won an award, the Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Thus not only has Esther been a Temple teacher, principal and *gaba'it*, she has also been a veritable Temple ambassador to the Jewish community at large. We have all learned so much from you, Esther. Thank you for helping to make our Shabbat School the thriving success it is. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours and travels West.

Now, some years ago, a young Israeli family came to town. The man had a mission: to bring a soulful, intellectual Judaism to the Wild West. And in the years since Oren and Adar came to town, we have learned so much from them. Of course, Oren — that's Dr. (PhD) Oren, if you don't mind — has taught many courses at Temple. From "Sex in the Shtetl" to Talmud, and, to "Sex IN the Talmud," Oren — that's also Rabbi Oren, if you don't mind — as well as his neo-traditional Shabbat service, Rabbi Oren has taught us all. And then there are the songs; frankly, Shabbat Shiraz may not have been the wild success it has been but for Rabbi O, back there tinkling the ivories with his *Carlbachian* harmonizing. But perhaps Rabbi Oren's most lasting achievement was the introduction of a second day of Rosh Hashana service. Lastly, with his wife Adar, their Brian May (of the band Queen)-loving son, Eytan and now the wee Eliana, the Steinitz family have been Temple stalwarts with a deep and solid presence. As they leave us to assume rabbinic duties elsewhere, we send them off with hugs, thanks and good wishes. We know They Will Rock Them.

Which brings us to Rabbi Howard. For many at Temple, Rabbi Howard has been the only rabbi they've ever known. While not literally true in my case, in some ways, he has been the only rabbi I've *known*. Although there were rabbis at the *shuls* I attended while growing up, we had virtually nothing to do with one another. I never had one that I'd call for advice; and I certainly never had one I laughed with, worked with, struggled over issues with and lovingly disagreed with. Of course, I'm not alone. So many of us have minds and hearts full of memories of times Rabbi Howard counseled, consoled or guided us. So many of us have memories of happy times when he was there with us and sad (even tragic) times when he was there for us. It is my hope that, aside from his beloved family — his kids who grew up with our own, almost as our own, and his beloved Annie — his many years at Temple B'nai Tikvah and the thoughts of the countless lives he touched and changed are among his most cherished memories. Let us try to take to heart what our Rabbi has told us so many times and try, even at this most bittersweet time, to embrace it: "We don't like leaving but God loves becoming." I can think of no better tribute or gift to our Rabbi than our striving to accept that...

No, wait—that's not true. I can think of a better tribute or gift. When I told Rabbi Howard to let us know what day he could block off in June for a farewell event, he immediately told me he didn't want that. Instead, he wanted regular services, with packed seats. What he really wanted was us in Temple, at services. And so, in honour of our Rabbi, let us undertake to continue coming to services, to welcome our interim rabbi, Rabbi Teri Appleby, and to keep — to increase — the connection we have to Temple.

...continued on page 5

...continued from page 4

Now, as you may know, Rabbi Howard lost that argument: please join us at 2:00 pm on June 7th for some tea and such when we have an informal gathering, giving everyone an opportunity to have a few words of farewell with Rabbi Howard, Annie and the kids. And don't forget to circle your calendar for June 26th, our final Shabbat Shiraz with the Voss-Altpeople.

In the meantime, please remember to come to our Annual General Meeting on June 17th. Reports of committees will be presented as will the new Board. These will also be published in the next edition of *Kol Tikvah*.

Yahrzeits

To be read June 5/6

Clayton Locke
Vera Himelfarb
Lora Fine
Keith Danzel Abraham

Fay Berliner Zugman
Merwin Kubrin
Saul Moscovich

To be read June 12/13

Mona Libin
Rose Gerstenfeld
Frances Horovitz
Esther Conn
Mel Waldman

Florence Singer
Karl Gurevitch
Toby Molly Rose
Miriam Kerr Lapsley
Thelma Frankel

To be read June 19/20

Robert Steinitz
Rosa Schaffer Klein
Aaron Baylin
Israel Paul
Arthur Hyman

Julius Hendler
Hector Ross
Bess Jacob
Samuel Stein
Jack Panter

To be read June 26/27

Donald Grobman
Esther Toby Eisenstadt
Ferdinand Lutz
Morris Steinfeld
Max Nathanson
Benjamin Rosenbaum
Yakov John Adelman
Charles Lewis McCormick

Robert Stern
Solomon Kustan
M. David Spindel
Phyllis Switzer
Gloria Goldson
Colleen Smolkin
David Freiman

SHABBAT SCHOOL CORNER



On May 9th, the Shabbat School held its final session of the year — and said goodbye to Morah Esther and Rabbi Howard. The students presented Rabbi Howard with a book of handmade artwork and farewell messages.

L'HITRAOT/UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...

As everyone knows, Rabbi Howard, Annie, Emilie, Judah and Adi will be heading off to their new home in Providence, Rhode Island at the end of June.

We want to give all of you an opportunity to bid them farewell, and invite you to drop by for:

Tea and Cookies
Sunday, June 7th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Betty Switzer Social Hall



If you aren't able to join us that day, we will also be having a special Oneg Shabbat following the **Shabbat Shiraz musical service on Friday, June 26th.**

We look forward to seeing all of you at one event, the other, or both!

DONATIONS

To	From	Occasion
Building Fund		
Temple	Maurice Yacowar	In memory of Sophie Yacowar
Temple	Abe Agema	In memory of Antje Bootsma
Norm & Marlene Yanofsky	Shauna Switzer	Mazel Tov
Myron & Susan Podlog	Shauna Switzer	Mazel Tov
Edith Doctoroff	Shauna Switzer	Happy Birthday
Roz Mendelson	Betsy Jameson	Condolences
Temple	Brent & Colleen Winston	In memory of Arnold Winston
Temple	Deborah Sword	In memory of Myer Switzer
Temple	Deborah Sword	In memory of Etta Switzer
Temple	Molly Ross	In memory of Celia Kornberg
Adi Altman	Danny and Roz Oppenheim	Mazel Tov
Daniel Arato Fund		
Peter & Judith Arato & family	Mary & Ken Taub	Condolences
Aaron & Hanita Dagan	Judith & Peter Arato	Mazel Tov
Sam & Lauren Bell	Judith & Peter Arato	Mazel Tov
Jim Cohen	Judith & Peter Arato	Mazel Tov
Jewish Enrichment Fund		
Betsy Jameson	Zeisler Family	Happy Birthday
Norm & Marlene Yanofsky	Jane Paterson	Mazel Tov
Kiddush Fund		
Temple	George & Sondra Goodman	In memory of Jack Goodman
Temple	George & Sondra Goodman	In memory of Gertie Knelman
Library Fund		
Temple	Naomi Johansen	In memory of Miriam Haavik
Temple	Naomi Johansen	In memory of Dorthea Powell
Piano Fund		
Temple	Eric, Dedre & Eli Toker	In memory of Mia Beer Toker
Adi Altman	Jane Baker	Mazel Tov
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund		
Temple	Betty Mayer	In memory of Bella Feldman
Temple	Betty Mayer	In memory of Malke Zeidman
Temple	Phyllis Krygier & family	In memory of Jessica Krygier
Rabbi Howard	Liliya Ushurova	Thank you
Marc O'Connor	Michele Doctoroff, Ted & Sydney Switzer	Get Well Soon
Shabbat School Fund		
Rebecca Krel & family	Betsy Jameson	Condolences
Smolkin Memorial Wall Fund		
Barry Smolkin	George & Sondra Goodman	Happy Birthday
Temple	Helen Walker	In memory of David Riskin
Temple	Annie Brodsky	In memory of Myer Switzer
Temple	Annie Brodsky	In memory of Etta Switzer
Barry Smolkin	Jerry & Faith Dubisky	Happy Birthday
Barry Smolkin	Len Himelfarb & Cathy Somes	Happy Birthday
Temple	Len Himelfarb	In memory of Samuel Himelfarb

...continued from page 6

To	From	Occasion
Social Action Fund		
Temple	Nadine & David Drexler & family	In memory of Benjamin Gelfond
Temple	Paul Ziff	In memory of Louis Ziff

Thank you to the following people for donations received in honour of our 36th Anniversary: David Ashkin and Mandy Solomon-Ashkin, Harvey and Kim Bernbaum, Elaine Bucknum, Alex Francoeur and Maggie Serpa, Leslie and Lee Handy, David Hodgins and Roz Mendelson, Steve Kahn, Paul and Robin Leszner, Alvin Libin, Susan Light, Al Osten, Brian and Gayla Rogers, Morley and Cheryl Shore, Sam Switzer

TEMPLE'S 36TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

A great many people worked and played hard to make Temple's 36th birthday party, held on April 25th, a tremendously successful and fun occasion. Huge thanks to the organizing committee: Yaara Eilon-Avigdor, Karry Taylor, Barbara Steward, Cynthia Simmons, Scott Morgan, Natashia Halikowski, and Rabbi Howard; to Steve Eichler, Rabbi Oren Steinitz, Frank Rackow, and Allen Merovitz for their music; to the many B'nai Mitzvah class volunteers who helped with games; and to Tess Morgenstern-McCormick, Katie Baker, Kira Blumer, and Daniel Lenfest-Jameson for sharing their stories about growing up with Temple. Thanks, too, to Danny Oppenheim and Daniel Lenfest-Jameson for extraordinary balloon-lassoing duty. A very special, HUGE thank-you goes out to Tess Morgenstern-McCormick for coordinating the whole show. And heartfelt thanks to Judith and Peter Arato for helping to sponsor the party through the Daniel Arato Fund.

— Betsy Jameson



TEMPLE BOOK CLUB

Date: June 10th, 7:00-9:00 pm

Location: Temple Library

Book: *Barney Ross: The Life of a Jewish Fighter* by Douglas Century

Message from the 36th Anniversary Gala Co-Chairs Alison Geskin and Lori Hartwick

It was an honour and a pleasure to be part of Temple's double chai anniversary celebration with the "Wrap Yourself In 36 Years" gala fundraiser. We had tremendous support and would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our Silver, Bronze, Patrons, and Friends of Temple donors. Our committees were filled with members who "took up the torch" immediately and ran with it. Without them, this fundraiser would not have been possible. When you see them, please thank them!

Donor Program Committee

Danny Oppenheim, Rabbi Howard, Ron Bing, Donna Riback, and Alison Geskin

Tribute Book Committee

Roz Oppenheim, Karry Taylor, Josh Hesslein, and Ron Bing

Tribute Book – Advertising Committee

Trish Mayer, Gloria Ross, Susan Podlog, and Sid Horovitz

Floral Décor

Roz Oppenheim and Sandra Mellino

Gala Reception Team

Tina Stanleigh, Natashia Halikowski, and Deb Finkleman

Gala Committee

Danny Oppenheim, Josh Hesslein, and Natashia Halikowski

We extend a very special thank you to our office staff, Jane Paterson, Karry Taylor, and Debbie Bosomworth. They truly kept the torch lit!

We wish to thank the following for their generous support of the 36th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

SILVER

Steve Eichler & Tracey Rumig
Sam Switzer

BRONZE

Alvin Libin
Al Osten
Donna Riback
Norman & Kathy Schachar
Martin Molyneaux & Deborah Yedlin

PATRON

Ron and Judy Bing
Bonnie Kaplan & Richard Conte
Adrienne and John Kertzer
Roslyn Mendelson & David Hodgins
Jeff Michnowski & Enza Rosi
Jack & Donna Newton
Martin & Elly Singer
Larry & Tina Stanleigh
Thorn Walden
Norm & Marlene Yanofsky

FRIENDS OF TEMPLE

David Ashkin & Mandy Solomon-Ashkin
Rudy & Jeanette Berger
Harvey & Kim Bernbaum
Annie Brodsky
David & Nadine Drexler
Shirley Dunn
Joel & Sandy Fagan
Alex Francoeur & Maggie Serpa
Cory Gelmon
Uri Hess
Rabbi Jordan & Rebecca Goldson
Steve Kahn
Susan Light
Joel & Sally Lipkind
Eli & Gail Markovich
Rabbi David & Marla Meyer
Brian & Gayla Rogers
Ed & Felice Rosenbaum
Mitch Wise & Marg Sanden
Betty Sherwood
Cheryl & Morley Shore
Shauna Switzer
Ron Tucker & Kerry White-Tucker
Bruce & Patti Winston

We thank the following companies for their support:

Calgary Petroleum Club
Cococo Chocolatier
Coming Up Rozes
Met Fine Printers
Quintaro

We thank the following for their generous donation of door prizes:

Britannia Pharmacy
Village Ice Cream - Britannia Plaza
John Gilchrist

June 2015



Bar Mitzvah

June 6 – Eli Toker

Bat Mitzvah

June 13 – Rachel Novinger
June 20 – Diamond Martin

Candle Lighting

06/05 – 9:28 PM
06/12 – 9:33 PM
06/19 – 9:36 PM
06/26 – 9:37 PM

Torah Portions

06/06 – Beha'alotecha
06/13 – Shelach
06/20 – Korach
06/27 – Chukat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Executive Meeting 7:15 pm	4	5 Pizza Party & Family Shbbat Service 6 pm Renewal Service in Chapel 8 pm Shabbat Service 8 pm	6 Shabbat Service 10:15 am
7 Tea Party in honour of Rabbi Howard & Family 2-4 pm Inn From the Cold (overnight)	8	9 Inn from the Cold (overnight)	10 Temple Book Club 7 pm	11	12 Shabbat Service 8 pm	13 Chapel Minyan 10 am Shabbat Service 10:15 am
14	15	16	17 Temple AGM 7 pm	18	19 Social Action Shabbat Service 8 pm	20 Chant Service 9:30 am in Chapel Shabbat Service 10:15 am
21 Inn From the Cold (overnight)	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat Shiraz: Wine & Cheese 7:15 pm and Shabbat Service 8 pm	27 Rabbi Howard's Final Shabbat Service 10:15 am
28 Calgary Drop-In Centre Lunch	29	30				

*For more information on the Calgary Drop-In Centre, please contact Paul Finkleman at pfinkleman@shaw.ca or (403) 252-8967