

CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

February 2011 –Shevat/Adar I 5771
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Founded In 1888 - Celebrating 122 Years - Member of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

From the Rabbi

Dear congregants,
We just recently finished the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat, when we plant trees. For this month's column, I wanted to plant some seeds of thought from Rabbi Daniel Gordis, a Conservative rabbi who made Aliyah a number of years ago. His article below, reprinted in its entirety, I think captures the dilemma Israel is currently facing, and that gnaws at many of us who are ardent Zionists.

The Opposition We Really Need

Few of us, left to our own devices, would choose to have an opposition. "Get out of my way," we're inclined to say, "and just let me do what I know is right." Oppositions, it seems to us, are an unfortunate but unavoidable part of political life.

It's the common view, but it's wrong. Oppositions matter, because no political party, no ideology and no nation has a monopoly on wisdom. But as much as we need to welcome opposition, oppositions also need to know what to oppose, and how. The growing American Jewish opposition to Israel's foreign policy (or lack thereof) is a case in point.

A couple of weeks ago, I sent a friend in the States a [link to an article](#) by Prof. Benny Morris entitled "[Bleak House](#)," which argues that the prospects for peace have rarely been grimmer. It's really a distillation of Morris' book, *One State, Two States* in which he claims that the Palestinians are no closer to accepting a division of the land than

they were in 1948. Therefore, Morris claims, the two-state solution is essentially dead. I sent her the link because she's a respected leader of American Jewish life, associated with the "get out of the territories and make peace" camp. I wanted to see if Morris' article might enable her to at least understand those who espouse very different positions from hers.

"This is the most dismal and depressing analysis I have seen in a while," she replied. "I'm not convinced that Morris is right... but assuming for the moment that he is, what are we left with? What are we to do? I know you think a low-level conflict can simmer for the next 100 years, but I don't think Israel's soul can sustain that... [I]f he's right, how can we not despair?"

Despite her gentle dig at me, I was thrilled by her response. Because I do think that Benny Morris is right, when I find myself listening to the standard "end the occupation" mantra of the American Jewish opposition, I feel like I'm watching kids squeezing their eyes tightly shut, hoping against hope that this night, the tooth fairy really will come after all.

Our presence on the West Bank may be necessary, or it may be foolhardy; about that, reasonable minds can and do differ. But the notion that our presence on the West Bank is the prime impediment to peace is sheer myopia.

That is why it is so important that the peace camp, despairing of a country that it believes no longer cares

about peace, reads Morris carefully. Because once it does, as my friend's reply demonstrates, it can start asking the questions that truly matter, and it can become the kind of opposition that Israel desperately needs.

HOW DO we not despair? We avoid despair by recalibrating what it means to be a success. If the primary - or only - aspiration that we can articulate is that Israel be at peace, then a country in conflict is a failure. And because too many American Jews cannot articulate a hope for Israel beyond peace, the more it appears that peace is not attainable, the more this segment of American Jewry distances itself from the country. A thoughtful opposition could change that.

If Benny Morris is right that peace is simply unattainable now, a thoughtful and realistic opposition becomes ever more important. But the opposition's discourse then has to change. We need American Jewish push back that understands that Israel is not fundamentally about peace (as desirable as peace obviously is), but rather, about the flourishing of Jewish culture and the creation of a new Jewish sense of self in which Jews are those who determine their own destiny.

We need Zionist critics who understand that Israel is about Jews making terribly difficult decisions as Jews, in dialogue with the Jewish and Western traditions. How shall we live with Jews who believe that the state is fundamentally illegitimate? What should we do about illegal immigrants who are victims of Sudanese genocide, but who pose serious social and economic challenges for us? How do we make Jewish decisions about health care allocations? The ubiquitous and incessant repetition of the

"occupation mantra" isn't helpful, because if peace is fundamentally unachievable, the questions that matter are not how to make peace, but how to protect both Israel's body and soul while peace remains elusive.

Today, an "occupation-mantra opposition" is simply irrelevant. Now more than ever, we need a useful opposition, one that can get us to listen carefully to views with which we disagree, that can partner with those of us (both here and in the Diaspora) worried about the fabric of our society. How do we educate a generation of young people to know that they have enemies, without having them become racists? How do we acknowledge the very serious threats to Zionism even among Israeli Jews, without abandoning the freedom of expression that is at the core of Western liberal democracies? Can we remain both Jewish and democratic, without abandoning the moral principles that the free world considers sacred? What must we do - and not do - so that subsequent generations of Jews will not be ashamed of us?

EACH MORNING, the daily newspaper makes it clear that Israel is now careening ever closer to a serious endangering of its democracy and its decency. But American Jews who are despairing ought not abandon us when the world is turning on us as never before. What we need, now more than ever, is a Zionist and loving opposition, one that acknowledges the limitations of what we can do for peace and that sees itself as our partners for the long haul.

Much about this country needs to change. Yet that change depends not only on our leaders, but on whether those who worry about our future can begin to formulate the questions and the critiques that actually matter.

FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday, February 4

Candle Lighting 5:48 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 5

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat ends 7:19 p.m.

Friday, February 11

Candle Lighting 5:54 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 12

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat ends 7:25 p.m.

Friday, February 18

Candle Lighting 6:00 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 19

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat ends 7:31 p.m.

Friday, February 25

Candle Lighting 6:05 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 26

Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
Shabbat ends 7:36 p.m.

Food for Thought Luncheon

Thursday, February 3rd at 11:45 a.m.

Guest Speaker Roberta S. Clark from the Anti-Defamation League

The Face of Anti-Semitism Today

Roberta S. Clark, Associate Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League, Dallas Office

In 2009 the ADL tracked 1,211 anti-Semitic incidents nationally; this year we witnessed the fallout from the Gaza flotilla affair and the increase of Israel delegitimization. While Jewish communities around the world largely remain safe and secure, anti-Semitism continues to be a concern. Join us for an engaging discussion focused on defining what anti-Semitism is (and is not), as well as how it is manifested in our world today.

*****Please Contact the Office to make your reservations as soon as possible*****

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Don't forget to stop in & see what new things the Gift Shop has to offer!

There are plenty of items that would make great gifts for a loved one's special day! The Gift Shop is open Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For any questions about items please contact the office.

CAJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 9,
2011
7:30 p.m.

♥ **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** ♥

February 3

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kamenetsky

February 9

Mr. & Mrs. Naman Lipinsky

February 16

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Schwarz

February 13

Mr. & Mrs. Blake Hargrove

February 19

Mr. & Mrs. Benjy Bauer



Mazel TOU



Rabbi & Sharon Fuller on Home

Hilda Ruttenberg

Frances "Torchy" Hoffman

Rabbi & Sharon Fuller on Grandson

Hilda Ruttenberg

Esther & Naman Lipinsky

Debra & Blake Hargrove

Bobbye Brickman

Raylene Silver

Ellie & Ben Holgate on Son

Esther & Naman Lipinsky

Frances "Torchy" Hoffman

Marian Siedhoff

Harold Kamenetsky for Birthday

Debra & Blake Hargrove

Ira Stolzer for Birthday

Pearl Jacobson

Audrey & Nate Koss for Anniversary

Elayne Lynn

Simone & Jake Bauer for Anniversary

Becky & Keith Myers

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Elliot & Barbara Wolpo - for the Rabbi's new home.

Staci Begal - for Rabbi's Grandson

Don Gordon - for Rabbi's Grandson

Martin Chodorow - for Ann Chodorow's unveiling

The Way of the Lord - (B'nai Noah)

Mitzvah of the Month

Piku'ach Nefesh- Helping to Save Lives

Annual Blood Drive

February 14 - 19

Carter Blood Care Center

4332 West Waco Drive

You also will receive a coupon for buy one, get one free tickets to a Dallas Stars game

Be sure to mention that you are donating for the CAJ Account.



February 1

Larry Goldstein

Jeff Wolf

February 3

Debbie Hersh

February 6

Sharon Fuller

February 8

Randy Olmsted

February 12

Gabriel Burge

February 18

Jacob Fuller

February 19

Jackie Fuller

Katie Hargrove

February 22

Rick Bauer

Florence Hersh

Naman Lipinsky

February 24

Robert Offit

February 25

Justin Lynn

February 28

Esther Lipinsky

IN MEMORY OF

Max Weisman
Esther & Naman Lipinsky

Joe Zoblotsky
Morris Zoblotsky

Frank Israel
Nancy Israel

Burt Gardner
Hilda Ruttenberg

Barney Brickman
Bobbye Brickman

Abe Brickman
Bobbye Brickman

David Brickman
Bobbye Brickman

Esther Anna Gulman
Lea & Jeff Levin

Thank You

Thank you to all of those that made the Tu Bishvat Seder a success! Thanks to Debra Hargrove for doing all of the shopping for the event, Shanna & Jaece Rogers for the set-up and clean-up, and Inez Bonneville and the Religious school students for all of the special decorations. Thank you to everyone for making this a special & memorable event.

A/C DONATIONS

Stanley & Florence Hersh
Judy Hersh
Thomas & Oriel Offit
Bobbye Brickman
Esther & Naman Lipinsky
Morris Marcus
Frances "Torchy" Hoffman
Barry & Hanna Phillips
Paul Barron
Abbye & Susan Silver
Jim & Marcia Olmstead
Rick & Melanie Bauer
Sylvia & Samuel Chernoff
Harry Harelik
Jeff Wolf
Jeff Levin
Mona Segal
Elliot & Barbara Wolpo
Lynne Lipsitz
Melvin Lipsitz – In honor of Rabbi Fuller
Steve Schwarz – In honor of his parents,
Harry & Klair Schwarz
Clifton Robinson – In honor of the
Stanley Hersh Family
Elaine Slansky – In honor of Steve
Schwarz

Feast of Caring

*Caritas is celebrating their 44th
annual Feast of Caring, Thursday,
February 24, 6:00 p.m.
McLennan Community College
Conference Center
4601 N. 19th Street
Special Guest Speaker:
Baylor University President Ken Starr
For more information, please call
753-4593*

Welcome

This month, we will have two classes of students visiting for our Friday night services. On Friday, February 4th, we will be welcoming the Lakeview United Methodist confirmation class & on Friday, February 11th, we will have the Woodway United Methodist confirmation class. Services on these nights will be held in the sanctuary

On - Going Mitzvah

Food from the Faithful

We will supply dried and canned beans on an on-going basis. Please bring packages throughout the year and Rabbi Fuller will see that they are delivered to Caritas.

SHABBAT DONATIONS

January 1, 2011

Florence & Stanley Hersh
Simone & Jake Bauer
Maura & David Jortner
Esther & Naman Lipinsky
Lorraine & David Hoppenstein
Pearl Jacobson
Steve & Lilia Schwarz
Robert Englander
Rabbi & Sharon Fuller

January 8, 2011

Florence & Stanley Hersh
Morris Marcus
Judy Hersh
Esther & Naman Lipinsky
Pearl Jacobson
Steve & Lilia Schwarz
Rabbi & Sharon Fuller

January 15, 2011

Florence & Stanley Hersh
Simone & Jake Bauer
Susan & Abby Silver
Esther & Naman Lipinsky
Pearl Jacobson
Steve & Lilia Schwarz
Lorraine & David Hoppenstein

January 22, 2011

Florence & Stanley Hersh
Judy Hersh
Simone & Jake Bauer
Bill Burge & Tracey Hall
Debra & Blake Hargrove
Barbara & Elliot Wolpo
Esther & Naman Lipinsky
Pearl Jacobson
Steve & Lilia Schwarz

Rosh Chodesh & Havdalah

On Saturday evening, February 5th, at 6:15 p.m. we will have our monthly Spirituality/ Meditation Service for Rosh Chodesh and Havdalah. Those who would like to go out to dinner together afterwards, please contact Rabbi Fuller.

Religious School Trip

The older classes (Shanna/Inez, Bobby, & confirmation) will be traveling to Bryan, Texas for a visit with that school, which is also part of ISJL, on Sunday, February 27th. Meet at the synagogue at 9 a.m. sharp; we will return around 4 p.m. Maura's class will have the week off.

February 2011

27 Shevat 5771 - 24 Adar I 5771

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 27 Shevat Zevachim 83 | 2 28 Shevat Zevachim 84 | 3 Food for Thought Lunch 11:45 a.m. Roberta S. Clark, Speaker 29 Shevat Zevachim 85 | 4 ROSH HODESH I Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 30 Shevat Zevachim 86 | 5 ROSH HODESH II Rosh Chodesh Havdalah Service 6:15 p.m. Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 1 Adar I Zevachim 87 |
| 6 2 Adar I Zevachim 88 | 7 3 Adar I Zevachim 89 | 8 4 Adar I Zevachim 90 | 9 CAJ Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. 5 Adar I Zevachim 91 | 10 6 Adar I Zevachim 92 | 11 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 7 Adar I Zevachim 93 | 12 Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 8 Adar I Zevachim 94 |
| 13 9 Adar I Zevachim 95 | 14 Blood Drive Begins Carter Blood Care 4332 West Waco Dr. 10 Adar I Zevachim 96 | 15 11 Adar I Zevachim 97 | 16 12 Adar I Zevachim 98 | 17 13 Adar I Zevachim 99 | 18 PURIM KATAN I Last Day of Blood Drive Carter Blood Care 4332 W. Waco Dr. Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 14 Adar I Zevachim 100 | 19 PURIM KATAN II Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 15 Adar I Zevachim 101 |
| 20 16 Adar I Zevachim 102 | 21 17 Adar I Zevachim 103 | 22 18 Adar I Zevachim 104 | 23 19 Adar I Zevachim 105 | 24 20 Adar I Zevachim 106 | 25 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 21 Adar I Zevachim 107 | 26 Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 22 Adar I Zevachim 108 |
| 27 RS trip to Bryan 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 23 Adar I Zevachim 109 | 28 24 Adar I Zevachim 110 | | | | | |

HOW TO OBSERVE THE YAHRZEIT

It is traditional to kindle a Yahrzeit Candle in the home on the evening Yahrzeit begins. It should remain lighted until sunset the next day. Possible prayer before lighting a Yahrzeit candle: Eternal God, I/we light this candle in memory of (name) _____, my/our beloved (relationship) _____. The light of the flame rekindles all the warm memories of the moment we shared together, and reassures me /us that a piece of his/her soul dwells in my/our heart(s) forever. May his/her soul be bound up with the bonds of eternal life. Amen. Candles are available at the Gift Shop. Every effort should be made to say Kaddish at congregational services. It is meritorious to perform some Mitzvah or to contribute to the Synagogue in commemoration of the deceased.

Kaddish will be said January 28

*Shevat 27 Sam Harelik
Gertie Kantrovich
Dave Knobler
Abe Novich*

*Shevat 28 Jacob Wolf
Mrs. B. Coopersmith
Mrs. I.F. Aronson
Miriam Salpeter*

*Shevat 30 Bert Gardner
Mrs. B. Levinson*

*Adar 19 Robert Todd
Ben Keen
Max Wise*

Adar 20 I.J. Gollob

*Adar 21 Harry Brodkey
Frank Israel
Thelma Lipinsky
Pearl Greenfield*

Kaddish will be said January 4

*Adar 1 William Chernoff
Naomi Levy
Nathan Zidman*

Adar 2 Hyman Herzlich

*Adar 4 Anne Goodman Deyo
Sam Wolstein*

*Adar 6 Morrie Alperin
Joseph Wise*

Adar 7 Lois Helfer

Kaddish will be said January 25

*Adar 22 Harry Levine
Carlos Sifuentes*

Adar 23 Anna Goldman Hersh

*Adar 24 Ilena Spelvo
Mrs. Harry Brodkey*

Kaddish will be said January 11

*Adar 8 Joseph Smolensky
Phillip Reich
Marie Rosenberg
Adolph Rubel*

*Adar 9 Jacob Farbstein
David Wizig
Leon Berman*

*Adar 10 Morris A. Cohen
Lauren Hoffman*

*Adar 11 Bessie Offman
L. Weisberg*

Adar 14 Helen Levy

Kaddish will be said January 18

Adar 15 Richard Sifuentes

*Adar 17 Bessie Genecov
Bessie Zoblotsky*

*Adar 18 Blanche R. Ellis
Louis Esserman
Rebecca Hayman
William Lender*