

MINYAN MONTHLY

Vol. 5, No. 1

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FROM THE CHAIR:

By Robert Braun

Ever since I was appointed* as chair of the Minyan Steering Committee, I have been bombarded with two sorts of comments. One is a general statement of support and commiseration; I appreciate it more every day. The second is an inquiry as to my "agenda".

This sort of talk is generally foreign to the Minyan. We do not have "plans" or "programs" to achieve a definite goal, nor do we strive that our individual efforts will leave a mark on it. Instead, we depend upon a sort of "invisible hand" effect, a feeling that, by our joint (if somewhat disorganized) efforts, we will create and share a satisfying spiritual environment.

(continued page 5)

*if not a laying on of the hands, certainly a good deal of arm twisting.

FROM RABBI REMBAUM:

YISHAR KOACH to the members of the Library Minyan and to Susan Grinel for your decision to resume publication of the Minyan Monthly. I always found the Monthly to be an informative and often provocative journal that expressed the dynamic spirit of the Library Minyan and brought significant issues to its membership. I look forward to the opportunity of using it as a vehicle for sharing some of my thoughts with the Minyan members and know that others will do the same.

I eagerly await receipt of the first issue of the new monthly. Go from "strength to strength" with this important effort!

So you want to be a Gabbai for Shabbat and Holiday Services!

At the egalitarian, democratic, highly participatory Library Minyan, gabai'im, or helpers if you will, come in all shapes and sizes and volunteer to do all sorts of backstage types of activities which make Shabbat and Holiday services function smoothly...most of the time.

In particular, there are four gabai'im who see to services as a whole. Each week, one of these gabai'im calls congregants and asks (begs, cajoles, bribes, etc.) them to volunteer to lead the Minyan in Pesukei De-zimra, Shacharit, Torah and Musaf services. For special holidays, the gabai is responsible for finding congregants familiar with the special melodies for such services as Hallel, Hakafot, or Geshem.

On the day of services, the gabai distributes the aliyot for Torah reading. After the conclusion of services, the gabai thanks participants, facilitates kabbalat paneem--the welcoming of guests and new-comers to the Minyan, and referees the congregation-generated announcements.

Congregants who are planning a simcha and wish to have their friends and family participate in leading services or being honored with aliyot are encouraged to contact the gabai for that Shabbat ten days to two weeks in advance. To find out who is the gabai for the Shabbat in question, contact Michael Beals, at (213) 657-5172. Also contact Michael if you would like to volunteer to be a gabai or to lead future services.

---Michael Beals

Or...a Gabai at the Torah Service!

The gabai'im for the Torah service at our Minyan carry out a number of key responsibilities:

- 1) Calling to the Torah those honored with Aliyot
- 2) Making sure the Torah reader uses correct pronunciation for each word he/she reads
- 3) Announcing pages for the congregation to follow the reading
- 4) Invoking G-d's blessings for those who are ill, and blessings for congregants on special occasions, such as births, weddings, and bar/bat mitzvahs
- 5) Reciting the Reader's Kaddish prior to the Maftir

Since there are two gabai'im, these responsibilities are divided, under the director of the Gabai Rishon. The gabai'im follow the lead of the Torah Reader to determine where to begin and end the readings; and they also assist all who approach the Torah with honors or responsibility.

If you would like to participate in the Minyan by becoming a Torah Gabai, please call either Norm Saiger (837-5927) or Evan Greenspan (818-760-0774).

---Norm Saiger

PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES
OR STORIES TO THE
MINYAN MONTHLY

Submission Deadline
November 20, 1990

Mail to: 1127 11th St. #204
Santa Monica, Ca
90403

MINYAN COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair, Steering Committee
Robert Braun 838-4272

Minyan Treasurer
Norm Green 938-8110

Reading Torah or Haftorah
Lida Baker 934-3663

Gabai'im-Shabbat/Holiday Services
Torah Honors
Michael Beals 657-5172
Alan Broidy
Sharon Kushner
Dan Wolpe

Drashot:
Julia Arango 276-5083

Torah Gabai'im
Norman Saiger 837-5927
Evan Greenspan 818-760-0774

Ark Opening
Betsy Hahn 657-8271

Child Care
Mark Bodenstein 937-7443
Rachel Siegel 473-2029
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Kiddush
Elka Tenner 932-0688
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Membership
Michael Rogson 939-5124

Mailing List
Eddie Rabin 286-9567

Minyan Monthly
Susan Grinel 395-2572

Ritual Committee
Stan Goldstein 813-8100

Scheduling Events-Master Calendar
Lida Baker 934-3663

TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

Sponsoring a kiddush after Shabbat services is a lovely way to share a special occasion or create a special connection with your friends at Library Minyan. A kiddush does not have to cost an an outrageous amount. Use of Cafe Keshet, the room located behind the chapel is \$50 and includes set up of 3 tables with tablecloths and cleanup. The cost of refreshments is up to the sponsor(s) and can be as simple or elaborate as funds allow.

More information and suggestions on how-to-sponsor-a-kiddush is available from any members of the kiddush committee, and if you would like to share sponsorship of a kiddush with someone, call and I will be happy to act as "shadchan".

---Elka Tenner

CHILD CARE FOR THE MINYAN

The child-care program is doing well. We have five very responsible young ladies, Michal, Davita, Aderet, Rachel and Lynn who are supervising the children. With new toys purchased before the holidays, the kids have new fun things.

Whether you are a parent or not, we welcome you to participate with us in being with the children as a volunteer helper with our babysitters. The Child-care program is responsible for providing responsible, attentive supervision for our children on Shabbat mornings (festivals and holidays excluded). The child-care committee encourages your participation.

---Mark Bodenstein

VOLUNTEERISM IN THE MINYAN
Condensed Minyan Drash
Shabbat Before Rosh Hashanah
Mitch Miller

The Library Minyan is an exercise in religious liberty. It was formed almost twenty three years ago now, by a group of people who wished to daven in their own way. Certainly not a great revolution aimed at overthrowing an existing government, nor even to be put in a class with any great movement for religious freedom, but nevertheless, a small exercise of the desire for religious liberty. People who wanted to do things just a little bit different. Not necessarily in content, perhaps only in style, but just a little different.

Over the years, the Minyan has made what many felt were radical changes, not so much in the service, but in the inclusion of women in participation in the service. We drafted our own prayer for Medinat Yisroel, now lost in the change of prayerbooks, and most recently, we voted to allow inclusion of the Imahot in the Amidah.

But the important point is not that these changes took place, but that we ourselves, the members of this congregation, made them happen. From the time of its founding, through all of these changes, the Minyan has functioned as a self administering body. Although it has grown enormously, it remains that.

Of course, there is a cost for all of this. We all know the frustrating feeling of wanting to complain about something but not having anyone to complain to. Those who have been coming to the Minyan a while and who participate regularly in Minyan affairs know we have a particular Minyan style which is so cumbersome that it's often the butt of jokes.

About five years ago, we adopted three criteria for membership in the

Library Minyan, which really means inclusion on the Minyan mailing list. First, we pay. That is, we pay dues to Temple Beth Am because it provides us with this facility and allows us access to all of its programs and opportunities. Second, we come. We come to the Minyan regularly because this is a community of people who come together to pray, not just once or twice a year, but regularly, and to develop a community of prayer by doing so. Thirdly, we serve. We participate in the running of the Minyan. For without participation, the Minyan would simply cease to exist.

I'm here today because we need to make a decision. Are we going to make the requirement of service to the Minyan meaningful? To put it another way, are we going to keep the spirit of the Minyan alive by maintaining our concept of mutual responsibility? If we are, and I certainly hope that is the case, we need more participants. We need more volunteers. We need so many people calling up our gabai'im and committee chairs that they have to spend their time making sure everybody gets a turn rather than cajoling people into taking part.

Perhaps that is too much to hope for. Perhaps the Minyan has truly grown too large for that sort of spirit and level of participation to continue. I sincerely hope that is not the case.

Tonight is S'lichot. Rosh Hashanah is upon us. I hope that everyone, in considering the things in their lives that they want to improve, will this year think about their responsibilities to this religious community. The struggle, the sweat, the work that many have done have given us this wonderful institution, the Library Minyan. Let's make sure we keep it.

From the Chair - con't

All that being said, there are things we can do which would enhance and strengthen these positive feelings, without risking rigidity or an overblown infrastructure.

Volunteers are truly needed at all levels. We continue to rely on too few people for davening. Torah reading and other essentials. We need more individuals to serve in child care, kiddushim, visiting the ill, and perhaps even expanding our activities. Finally, we need people to coordinate the volunteering.

When people ask me why I belong to the Library Minyan, I usually tell them it was the first Jewish place of worship where I felt needed--where my attendance was more of an active statement of commitment than a passive statement of support. I think that continues to be a great attraction; it is up to us to act upon it.

MINYAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is planning to meet the evening of November 11, 1990. For more information, please call Robert Braun (213) 838-4272.

**DON'T FORGET WE'RE STILL COLLECTING
CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS FOR
SOVA
BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS SOON!**

**THE THE MINYAN MONTHLY BEGINS....
....AGAIN**

Let me take this opportunity to invite and encourage all of the Minyan members to use the Minyan Monthly as a vital part of your Minyan participation. Send us your ideas, comments, insights, announcements and dreams to share. This publication will surely enhance our experience of community if we use it as a direct line of communication to our friends. Submit material for publication by the 20th of the month, (no later) and the Monthly (small prayer here) will come out on the first of the month.

---Susan Grinel

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MAYER ALAN BRENNER will be signing his new novel SPELL OF INTRIGUE on Sunday, November 18, 2-4 PM, at Dangerous Visions bookstore (13563 Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks). Call Mayer at (213) 470-4086 or Danger Visions at (8-8) 986-6963 for more information.

BETSY HAHN needs help with giving out the honor of opening the Aron Kodesh. Please call her to volunteer at (213) 657-8271.

