

MINYAN MONTHLY

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GENERIC "KIDDUSHES" What's the Problem? --Barry Rosenblatt

As Library Minyan liaison to the Temple Beth Am Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, I was asked to look into the Temple's policies regarding our kiddushim, and to explore the feasibility of holding them more frequently throughout the year. The following report is what I found after consulting with the Temple's executive director, Sonya Silverblatt, the catering director, Myrna Singer and with our own kiddush coordinator, Judy Weinstock.

A generic kiddush is not sponsored (i.e., paid for) by any one particular person, family or group or for any specific reason. Over many years, the main congregation of Temple Beth Am has always enjoyed a generic kiddush after any Shabbat morning service when there wasn't a family sponsoring one. Normally, the generic kiddush has provided only a bare minimum of food and refreshment: kichel

and wine, and maybe some cookies. Often, a few families will contribute extra funds so the basic kiddush can be enhanced with cake, maybe challah, etc. The temple has covered the basic cost of generic kiddushim in the main sanctuary by accumulating small amounts of net profit from the sponsored kiddushim that are held next door.

The Temple's budget, on the other hand, has allocated funds over the past five or so years to pay for a once-a-month generic kiddush in Cafe Keshet for the Library Minyan. The Temple does not accumulate any net profit from the Library Minyan's sponsored kiddushim because we generally handle these finances on our own, apart from the Temple's account. The way we've been handling our sponsored kiddushim is that the sponsoring family purchases the food themselves, therefore no money passes through the Temple.

Some members of the Library Minyan are miffed
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

--Robert Braun

As you can see when walking to the Minyan each Shabbat (and we know you all walk to Minyan!), the Capital Campaign for Temple Beth Am has progressed beyond anticipation and into the "big hole in the ground" stage. While the recent rains may have made it the "big fishing hole in the ground" stage, drier weather will bring more improvements, until we get to the "big new school building where the parking lot used to be" stage.

The Minyan membership has been a major part of this effort, not only by strongly supporting the fund raising efforts, but also by serving on many of the committees which impact on the project. The Capital Campaign as a whole has raised over \$5,000,000 in commitments, with the Minyan having raised over \$250,000 alone. Our recent phone nights generated great support, and we expect to resume our calling soon so that each member of the Minyan will have an opportunity to be a part of this effort.

We have always held that one unique quality of the Minyan is the commitment of Minyan members to work for the improvement of the Minyan and the Minyan community. This project does just that -- it gives the Minyan a place to pray, to celebrate simchat, and to create an enhanced Minyan community.

Anyone who has not yet had an opportunity to contribute should call Robert or Sandra Braun, Joel or Fran Grossman or Alan Broidy for details.

OBSERVATIONS

--Norman H. Green

Among the characteristics of the Library Minyan that I like most are the informal methods that it has developed for making decisions and the diffusion of influence or power among its members. This only works because most of our members participate in carrying out the Minyan's functions, often without seeking (or receiving) any special recognition.

For examples, Joel Grossman has continued to take on the responsibility of organizing our High Holy Day services; Abby Harris has established an effective Home Hospitality program; Teri Cohan Link is involving more people in child care and seeing to it that they receive some pulpit recognition; Judith Weinstock has helped to arrange for monthly congregation-sponsored kiddushim; Carl Sunshine has been recruiting more people to help out occasionally in physically setting them up; Miriam Prum Hess is spear-heading a Purim-seudah to be catered at a local restaurant, La Gondola, which will prepare a Persian-style meal. All of these people and others deserve thanks for their efforts and accomplishments.

Obviously everyone knows that construction of the new school building is well begun. Some of us miss the two stately trees that were recently removed. You will be glad to know that when construction is complete, five new trees will be placed in front of both the new Rena Gansberg Educational Center and the main sanctuary building.

During Hanukah, the Capital Campaign reached the \$5 million mark in pledges. (Another \$2 million is needed in order to complete all of the planned remodelling, including the new chapel that our Minyan expects to use.) Unfortunately, the emphasis on the capital campaign,

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that we aren't being provided more frequent nonsponsored/generic kiddushim. But from the Temple's perspective, this would require more budget outlays for Minyan kiddushim, yet the Temple doesn't allocate funds for the main congregation's generic kiddushim.

One line of reasoning I have heard from Library Minyan members has been that, since we pay the same dues as the main congregation does, then we should receive the same level of service that they do. The problem with this reasoning is that we don't pay the same dues as they do next door; we pay the same rate as Temple members who worship on the High Holy Days in the chapel service. For the remainder of the year they worship in the main sanctuary (and therefore are not provided a separate kiddush). Also, as dues paying members of the shul, we are equally invited to share in all kiddushim held next door. The real issue is that we want to have more frequent generic kiddushim in Cafe Keshet.

All of this discussion to determine the shul's budgetary requirement to pay for additional (i.e., more than once a month) Library Minyan generic kiddushim is moot since the real problem today is that the Temple's budget is so severely constrained that they have discontinued their own practice of having nonsponsored (i.e., generic) kiddushim. What they're doing now is asking families from the membership to contribute funds to cover the cost whenever there isn't a bar/bat mitzvah or any other specific sponsored kiddush happening.

The Temple does plan to continue paying the cost of once-a-month Library Minyan generic kiddushim in Cafe Keshet. The problem is how to increase the frequency of our generic kiddushim, so that we, in effect, can have a kiddush following

every Shabbat service whenever a family is not sponsoring one.

A rough estimate of how much this would cost over a year's time is as follows: figure about 20 "Shabbats" out of 52 will be generic in addition to the one-a-month that the Temple pays for. A typical bare minimum generic kiddush, including cake, cookies, wine, cups and plates will run about \$150: \$70 cake, \$10 cups/plates, \$15 tablecloths, plus extras like Israeli salads, etc. Figuring the maximum cost, the total for the year would come to \$3,000.

If we can get about thirty Minyan members to give \$100, or some other combination to reach the total, then we'll be able to maintain a continuous program of generic kiddushim throughout the year. If you've followed and accepted this reasoning, and would like to help, please send your check to Sandra Braun (1743 S. Holt, LA 90035, 310-838-4272), the Minyan treasurer, and note that this is for the "kiddush fund".

If you disagree with the foregoing or you would like further information, I can be reached at 213-939-4767.

Note: Judy Weinstock and Carl Sunshine have graciously accepted the responsibility to coordinate the Temple staff to schedule our kiddushim and ensure that food has been ordered. Others in the Library Minyan have come forth to support them by volunteering to bring the food over and set it up on the tables, and clean up afterward. More volunteers are sorely needed. If you would like to help in this volunteer effort, this will reduce the time that anyone has to spend over the year. Please call Judy at 213-933-1772 or Carl at 213-934-7889, and let them know that you're interested in helping.

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combined with the recession, has resulted in a difficult financial situation for the congregation's general fund. Consequently, fund-raising has taken on more importance than it usually has. Of course, contributions are needed and welcome. Prompt (or even early) payments of obligations to the synagogue, such as dues, are also helpful.

Many synagogues, including some prominent local congregations, have policies that they do not conduct any classes other than at an introductory level. We are fortunate that at Temple Beth Am, learning goes on both at a relatively elemental, and at a more advanced level. Several weekly classes are offered, such as Rabbi Rembaum's class on Tuesday nights studying Rambam's Mishneh Torah. Rabbi Netter's Wednesday night Talmud class (now studying Tractate Rosh Hashonah) is attended mostly by Library Minyan members. For those of you too busy to deal with a weekly class, consider an occasional lecture or study session. Three separate seminars in March will deal with various aspects of Pesach. One will be an introduction to the entire holiday, a second will offer ideas for improving Seder experiences, and a third will be an opportunity to learn a text relating to one aspect or another of the holiday. Details will be forthcoming.

PESACH TIME IN DIXIE

It's Pesach time in Dixieland,
Come let me take you by the hand;
There'll be Matsoh an' Schmaltz,
Pfeffer 'n' Zaltz;
Gee, ain't it grand when it tickles
en haltz;

It's Pesach time in Dixieland,
Come let me take you by the hand;
There'll be the Bubbe mit the Zadeh
Sittin' at the Seder,
Davenin' in ragtime, davenin' in
Ragtime;

There'll be a great big old jazz
band
When it's Pesach time in Dixie,
Yes, it's Pesach time in Dixie,
Oh, it's Pesach time in Dixie-land!
Ya-da-da-da

NEW EDITOR - MINYAN MONTHLY

After two and one half years, the time has come from me to retire as the Minyan Monthly editor. I will be happy to turn over the format for the margins and the front page to a willing Minyan member with a PC--it's really easy. Please notify me, Susan Grinel, by phone (310) 559-6780 if this volunteer opportunity interests you.

MODERN HEBREW POETRY CLASS

Modern Hebrew Poetry with Professor Jacob Somerman - each Shabbat afternoon - 4:00 p.m. -5:30 p.m.
At the home of Marshall and Hannah Kramer, 6406 Lindenhurst Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90048
(3 blocks north of Wilshire, 2nd house west of La Jolla)

MINYAN COMMITTEES/RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair, Steering Committee
Norman Green 938-8110
Minyan Treasurer
Sandra Braun 838-4272
Reading Torah or Haftorah
Lida Baker 934-3663
Gabai'im-Shabbat/Holiday Services
Torah Honors
Alan Broidy (213)933-8894
Stan Goldstein (310)837-5503
Art Metz (310)276-6905
Itzhak Yaron (310)839-8112
Drashot:
Mark Rothman 659-0269
Torah Gabai'im
Norman Saiger (310)837-5927
Evan Greenspan 818-760-0774
Child Care
Matt Chazanov (213)936-3901
Teri Cohan Link
Fran Grossman (213)933-5040
Child Care Volunteer Coordinator
Diane Landau 657-7903
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Abby Harris 556-7778
Kiddush
Judy Weinstock (213)933-1772
Carl Sunshine (213)934-7889
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Mailing List
Leon Rogson 202-1329
Minyan Guide
Carl Sunshine 934-7889
Minyan Monthly
Susan Grinel (310)559-6780
Ritual Committee
Ronnie Cohen (213)658-8057
Scheduling Events-Master Calendar
Lida Baker 934-3663
Shiva Minyans
Norm Saiger 837-5927
Rachel Green 938-8110

WILKOF'S NEW ADDRESS

Please be advised that the Wilkof family can be reached at their new address:
25180 Shaker Blvd.
Beechwood, Ohio
44122

HOUSE FOR SALE

Walking distance from the Library Minyan on Point View in Carthay Square: 4-5 Br, 3Ba., Study, LR, DR, Eat-in kitchen. 3000 sq.ft. Excellent condition and lovingly kept. Reasonably priced. Call Gina and George Sanchez
(213) 932-0335

PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES

TO THE MINYAN MONTHLY

Mail to: Susan Grinel

5107 Cimarron Lane

Culver City, CA 90230

Or Call: (310) 559-6780 (H)

DON'T FORGET WE'RE STILL COLLECTING
CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS FOR

SOVA

TEMPLE BETH AM

Continuing Adult Jewish Education

As part of the Temple's program to encourage adults to study traditional Jewish texts in the original, the following course will be offered in the community:

Course Title: Talmud: Tractate Rosh Hashanah (Chapter 4)

Instructor: Rabbi Perry Netter (Associate Rabbi, Temple Beth Am)

Time: 12:10 P.M. to 1:10 P.M.

Date: Every Wednesday, starting November 11, 1992

Place: National Medical Enterprises, Inc.
2700 Colorado Avenue
Santa Monica, Ca. 90404

(between Stewart Avenue and 26th Street)

Meet in Main Lobby to receive Security Badges

Class will meet in Tax Department Library

Parking: Located under the building: cost is \$.75 per half hour

Lunch: Participants should bring sack lunches

Contact for Additional Information:

Marshall F. Kramer
(310) 998-8064