

MINYAN MONTHLY

Vol. 6, No. 2

Jan/Feb 1992 Shevat 5752

NOTES FROM YOUR TORAH

GABBAI

--Norm Saiger

I remember the time when I was first learning how to "daven". The Hebrew I had gotten easily in my years of Hebrew School. What they never taught there, however, was the real life necessities: when to stand, when to sit, and when to bow (and how to bow). It was less embarrassing for me to learn how I wasn't doing it right, than to think how often I had been making mistakes without a kind word from a fellow davener on how things go. Were they embarrassed? Shy? Afraid I might be offended? Perhaps they were unsure of their own stand/sit/ bow skills, hesitant to approach me unless they had done exhaustive research. Or perhaps feeling they felt that it's the role of a Rabbi to teach, and we wouldn't want to put someone out of a job by doing these things ourselves.

The Library Minyan being as it is, we have no concern about usurping the role of rabbis or cantors, or anyone losing

their livelihood. I think many of our members and guests could benefit from a friendly word from any of us, considering we are confident in our knowledge, on the devotional physical responses and supplements to our prayers. Done with this in mind, we might even meet and speak to someone we've never spoken to before, and spread the warmth of our community as well as help someone grow in prayer.

I did some research on these issues, consulting with Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin's book To Pray as a Jew (Basic Books, Inc. New York, 1980), and I pass it on to anyone interested without offense intended to anyone concerned.

When do we bow during the Shemoneh Esrei (Amidah)? According to Rabbi Donin, one bends the knees and bows both at the beginning and end of the first paragraph of the Shemoneh Esrei (the Avot) when saying the words "Barukh Atah". The name of G-d, "Ad-nai", should already be said while standing erect. One does not bow again

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FROM THE CHAIR
--Robert Braun

Some of you may have heard my muttering during shul of my intention to "leave this all behind and take a long, peaceful vacation in Beirut." Well, that time has come. As Lyndon Johnson so eloquently said, "America will never become involved in a land war in Asia." Or was that, "if nominated, I will not run, if elected, I will not serve."

In other words, it is, once again, time to pass the mantle of what passes for leadership in the Minyan to the next deserving victim honoree.

It's been fun. I've read a lot of mail directed to Rabbi Braun, as well as holding myself out as a "bona fide" leader of the Jewish community. This, too can be yours.

A great deal of kidding aside, it is an accepted fact that the heart and soul of the Minyan does not reside in leadership of an elite, but the leadership of many. The Chair of the steering committee simply allows the Minyan to continue--he/she/it does not impress his/her/its personality on the unique group that we have become.

It is also important that we, as a Minyan, elect our own representative, since that person will represent the Minyan to the Synagogue as a whole, as a member of the Temple's Executive Board and as a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees. My experience is that this representation is important, since it gives us an opportunity to impact the policies and direction of the Temple, and provide us with additional ability to direct our destiny.

The next Steering Committee meeting will discuss the mechanics of the Minyan election, among other topics, and I encourage you to throw your hat into the ring this election year. Given the slate of nominees

running for President, I believe we can have a much more interesting race on our own.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions and if you'd like to be nominated for the job.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Library Minyan Steering Committee on Sunday, February 9, 1991 promptly at 7:00 p.m. and ending at 9:00 p.m. at the home of Sandra and Robert Braun, 1743 South Holt Avenue, Los Angeles. The agenda will include the following matters:

1. Minyan elections (my personal favorite)
2. Progress of the Beth Am Capital Campaign
3. High Holiday seating
4. Membership issues

Anyone wishing to add agenda items should contact Bob Braun at (310) 838-4272.

THE LIBRARY MINYAN EXTENDS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

PERRY HOROWITZ on the loss of his father
MARK BODENSTEIN on the loss of his mother
LORI LEVINSON on the loss of her father
DAVID GORDIS on the loss of his father
LISA GORDIS on the loss of her grandfather

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		
Alan Broidy	933-8894	
Sharon Kushner	271-5845	
Dan Wolpe		
Paul Young		
Drashot:		
David Knapp	657-8271	
Torah Gabai'im		
Norman Saiger	837-5927	
Evan Greenspan	818-760-0774	
Child Care		
Mark Bodenstein	937-7443	
Matt Chazanov	936-3901	
Child Care Volunteer Coordinator		
Diane Landau	657-7903	
Kiddush		
Elka Tenner	932-0688	
Sharon Kushner		
Robin Moss		
Laurie Wallock		
Membership		
Michael Rogson	939-5124	
Mailing List		
Leon Rogson	202-1329	
Minyan Guide		
Carl Sunshine	934-7889	
Minyan Monthly		
Susan Grinel	395-2572	
Ritual Committee		
Stan Goldstein	813-8100	
Scheduling Events-Master Calendar		
Lida Baker	934-3663	

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

PURIM CARNIVAL: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help plan and prepare the Purim Carnival which will be on Sunday, March 15th, 1992. Proceeds from the Carnival go towards supporting the Temple's Youth Program (USY and Kadima). We'd like to obtain corporate sponsors for large-ride events (like a ferris wheel and merry-go-round), to help defray the cost and provide a greater net yield for the Youth Program. We also need help to get discount coupons from manufacturers of food items sold at the Carnival (e.g. hot dogs, chips, drinks, etc.); and we want to build more colorful booths to improve the general atmosphere.

If you would like to participate in any way, (letter writing, phone calling, or doing) please call Sharon Grob at (213) 933-8872.

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PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES
TO THE MINYAN MONTHLY
Submission Deadline 2/20/92
Mail to: Susan Grinel
1127 11th St. #204
Santa Monica, Calif. 90403
Or Call: 395-2572 (H)

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LIBRARY MINYAN ROSTER

during the Amidah until the blessing of Modim ("Modim anachnu lakh"). According to our sages of the talmud (Berakhot 34a) we need not show excessive humility, and, in fact, are cautioned not to bow during the other blessings. The Modim is the final expression of gratitude, not a petition or supplication or request of any sort. One bows during this blessing, once at the beginning when saying "Modim anachnu lakh," and again at the very end when saying "Baruch atah".

There it is. Easier to take than you thought, right? No offense intended and I hope none taken. May we find the means to serve G-d in our best way, and be together in the Library Minyan as a community for the benefit of all.

Library Minyan Birthdays for the Month of January

Name	Birthday
Avi Tal Siegel	01/24/1989
Daniel Ethan Gromis	01/24/1991
Elliot Siegel	01/20/1985
Justin Greenberg	01/27/1988
Shoshana McKinney	01/13/1984
Joshua Rami Sorokin	01/06/1986
Hannah Askren	01/09/1982
Batya Weinstock	01/12/1987
Shelley Uncyk	01/10/1989
Jesse Aron	01/13/1983
Ariel Chaim Friedman	01/08/1984
Ariella Askren	01/23/1984
Oren Ipp	01/11/1973
Shmuel Link	01/06/1985

Library Minyan Birthdays for the Month of February

Name	Birthday
Rachel Abrams	02/20/1987
Emma Avital Sorokin	02/24/1989
Brooke Baxter	02/24/1985
David Saiger	02/04/1983
Jordan Markovic	02/04/1990
Ariel Beliak	02/23/1979
David Ariel Landau	02/13/1988
Daniel Benjamin Neumann	02/10/1988
Isaac Gilbert Shapiro	02/18/1991
Daniel Louis Jacobs	02/12/1982

The Library Minyan updated roster has been completed by our Mailing List Committee -- Leon and Michael Rogson -- and is being mailed to all Minyan members. Thank you Leon and Michael for your excellent work to develop the questionnaire and compile an active membership list. The reporting format includes both home and work phone numbers for the adult household members, and the names of the children. We have also been provided with the birthdays for the children of the Library Minyan and will print this information whenever possible.

Specialized lists regarding member's skill and interest in Minyan activities (leading prayers, Torah Service etc.) are available upon request.

MINYAN MONTHLY PASSOVER ISSUE

Please start thinking about ideas for the March edition of the Minyan Monthly. We'd like to have an issue full of stories, personal anecdotes, insights, memories and teachings related to Pesach. Please plan to contribute even a few lines retelling a family event ("picture this...") or a provocative question for us all to contemplate, or an idea not yet a full drash, etc. This is a most important time for us to be sharing ourselves with our community.

Thanks