

MINYAN MONTHLY



Vol 4, No. 2

December 1987/January 1988 Tevet 5748

Thanks to...

The Minyan would like to thank the following people for their contributions, especially everyone who responded to the November Survey.

Jerry Horn	David & Jackie Ellendon
Joel & Fradya Rembaum	Marsha Liss
Rachel Adler & David Schulman	Edward Garber
Susan & Rami North-Gilboa	Shirley & Arnold Levitsky
Art & Laurie Gross-Schaefer	Serita Stevens
Marcia & David Nimmer	Alan & Linda Sklar
Manny Taitz	Ron Ostroff
Mathis Chazanov	Fred & Diane Landau
Nancy Highiet	Esther Lerner Brenner
Jules & Cathie-Ann Kamin	Amos Amit
Jeff & Amy Rabin	Eddie & Ellen Rabin
Eric & Navi Lesin	Ron & Pam Reiter
Elliot Sturman	Ruth & Misha Askren
Sheila Spiro & Greg Bearman	Miriam Cantor
Ronnie & Hilda Cohen	Mitch & Phyllis Miller
Joan & Sam Rimmon	Isabel & Sam Arshawsky
Herbert & Esther Hecht	Martin & Karen Neumann
Donna Silver	Sukie Port
Dan & Barbara Freeman	Norm & Irene Saiger
Judy & Allen Weinstock	Rona Blau
Leslie Barnett	Glenn & Judy Massarano
Davin & Lillian Zerner	Henry & Suzanne Worgan
Jeremy & Linda Levenson	Max Stern
Mark & Dale Bodenstein	Mitch & Phyllis Miller
Eshyah Broidy	Jeremy & Linda Levenson
Alan & Nomi Wallace	

Announcements

Kabbalat Shabbat - Many of us meet each Friday night for Kabbalat Shabbat services. All members of our community are invited to join us at the following places and times:

Jan 8	6:15 Fred and Diane Landau	905 S. Ledoux #3
Jan 15	6:15 Max Stern	1449 S. Point View #9
Jan 22	6:15 Brad and Sharon Grob	1021 Stearns Drive
Jan 29	6:15 Larry Harris	1449 S. Canfield
Feb 5	6:15 Sharon Kushner	8545 Saturn #203
Feb 12	6:15 Glen and Judy Massarano	1055 S. Wooster #1
Feb 19	6:15 Jonathan and Janice Lightman	1420 S. Bedford 3rd floor

If you have any questions, please call Brad Grob (276-2634) or Glenn Massarano (652-9652).

Entertainment 88 books are available through Cathy Rosenblatt (939-4767) with proceeds going to Israel.

Learn to Daven Shacharit - Robert Pflug will teach after services on January 9th. About one-half hour.

Folk Jam (and Potluck) - The next singing/musical instrument jam will be held on Sunday, January 17, 5:30pm at Kathy and Barry Rosenblatt's home at 1171 S. Stearns Dr., LA. For more information, please call Kathy and Barry at 939-4767.

Minyan List Corrections - Please send phone and address corrections to Eddie Rabin, 1181 Hi Point Street, Los Angeles CA 90035 (930-1939).

Duplex for rent - 3 bedroom upstairs, walking distance to shul. Please call Eddie Rabin at 930-1939.

Lamaze Classes by Linda Levenson, R.N.M.N. in Beverly Hills. Call her at 553-5346 or on minyan list.

Ethiopian Jews - Temple Beth Am Men's Club and World Affairs Committee will con-sponsor an interesting and important Breakfast-Program on Sunday, January 10, 1988 from 9:30-11:30am. The topic will be the Jews of Ethiopia. The guest speakers are Gerry L. Fellman and Sheila Sauber of The American Rabbinic Network for Ethiopian Jewry. The video-film, The Unfinished Exodus, with an introduction by Elie Wiesel, will be shown. The cost of the Breakfast-program is \$5.00 per person. Reservations to: Temple Office (655-6401), Joseph Rasky (936-3907), or Rose Greitzer (653-3480).

Minyan Scrapbook - Interested in collecting a Minyan Scrapbook? Mr. Harry Brenner is already off to a good start will pictures from Purim celebrations long since past... To see the pictures or discuss the possibility of a permanent Minyan memento, call Harry at 939-3476.

New Havurah Get-Together - Minyan members are invited to join newly forming Beth Am havurot. A havurah is a small group of families, couples, or individuals who share common interests and the desire to meet together on a monthly basis to celebrate, study, and shmooze. Involvement in a havurah can create warm, lasting friendships and strengthen family bonds. If you are interested in joining a havurah, please contact Frieda Hershman Huberman, Program Director, at 652-7353, x107.

Hebrew Jokes wanted - Help make the next issues of the *Minyan Monthly* more interesting.



IMAHOT Drashot

The IMAHOT sub-committee of the Ritual committee will be sponsoring drashot in 1988. The darshanim were asked to address the following questions:

- 1) How do you personally approach prayer?
- 2) Are there words or phrases or sections in the liturgy with which you are uncomfortable, and if so, how do you deal with them?
- 3) Is it ever appropriate to change the liturgy, and if so, in what manner and under what circumstances?
- 4) How do you feel about the proposed references to the Imahot (in the 1st paragraph of the Amidah), the proposed references to Deity in the feminine, and other feminist issues in prayer?

The drashot are scheduled as follows:

January 23rd	Jeff Rabin
January 30th (tentative)	Jonathan Omer-man
February 13th	Hanan Alexander
February 20th	Joel Grossman
February 27th	Jackie Ellenson
March 5th	Gail Dorph
March 19th	Deborah Lipstadt

The next meeting of the IMAHOT subcommittee of the Ritual committee of the Library Minyan will be Wednesday, January 20, 1988. We will be studying with Rabbi Joel Rembaum the essential elements and structure of prayer. The meeting will be held at the synagogue and is OPEN TO ALL members of the Minyan.

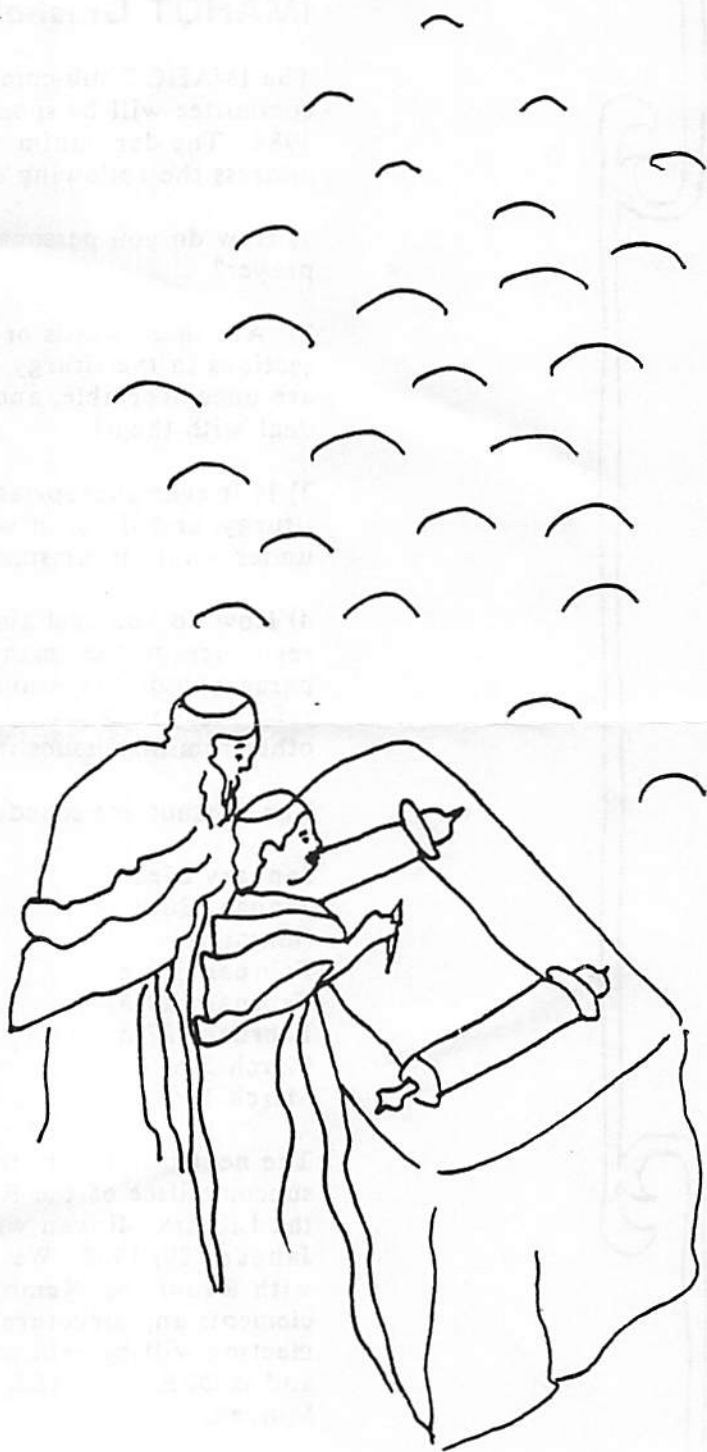
Tircha D'tziborah versus Boshet

by David Rubin

Everyone at the Minyan knows of the "not in front of this crowd" syndrome. However, the problem never was as clear to me as now that I have the honor of serving as one of the gabbais. In that capacity I have found a number of people, regulars and guests, who know how to daaven or say the brachas on an aliyah, but who nevertheless refuse. To some extent, this occurrence is inevitable since some people are naturally shy, even those who are not cannot help but feel a little intimidated by the high percentage of clergy and lay jewish scholars we are blessed to have among us each week. However, I believe that to a greater extent we are responsible for the problem.

I had never heard of Tircha D'tziborah (hardship for the congregation) before I came to the Minyan, but it soon became a familiar term to me. Time and again I heard it used as a justification for lashon haraah, or when used in a direct confrontation with someone who had graciously volunteered to assist us by participating in the service, as a justification for personal insult and embarrassment. Now that I have been involved with the Minyan for more than 3 years, I see this improper use of a very limited concept has not subsided.

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Tircha D'tziborah versus Boshet, (Continued)

I personally know of two instances within the last several months in which persons with obvious good intentions have been accosted by individuals during services. Each was told "on behalf of the congregation" that his/her unselfish efforts are not welcome. In one particularly ironic example, when I interrupted one individual in the process of speaking "on behalf of the congregation", I was advised to "stay out of it" because the matter "did not concern" me. It therefore now appears that the time has come to attempt to publicly set the halachic record straight, as best as I can. My research has shown the following:

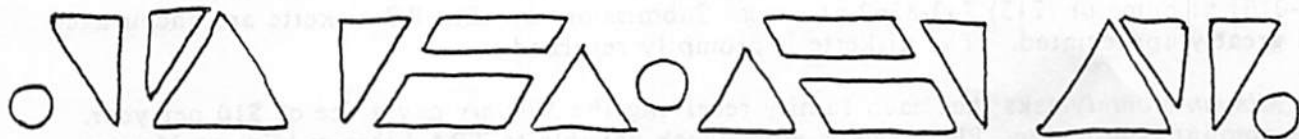
Tircha D'tziborah is a very narrow concept with its origins in the Talmud. The reference is to Rabbi Akiba who daavened quickly so as to be extra careful not to overburden the congregation. The Shulchan Aruch and Rambam both extended the idea saying that one should not prolong the service merely for the pleasure of hearing one's own voice or in the belief that one has a lovely voice. However, Rambam cautions that if one daavens slowly because of Kavanah, then that is not an example of Tircha D'tziborah. Indeed, that person is considered "blessed."

As I suspected it would, my research showed that a concept far more important than Tircha is that of Boshet, embarrassing someone. The Shulchan Aruch advises that if someone makes a mistake while daavening, the person should be corrected so that it does not happen again. However, the correction must be made in a tactful manner so as not to allow the person to feel embarrassed. In other words, it is wrong to allow a person to feel shame even when no one else is present in the room. As to public embarrassment the authorities are even more compelling.

In the Talmud, the Rabbis note that public embarrassment was the single sin that was most carefully avoided by the Palestinian scholars. Other Rabbanim advise respectively that one who embarrasses someone in public is one of only three types of sinners who will not eventually be redeemed from Gehenna, and is denied any possibility of Olam Habah. The Rabbanim were so fervent on this point, that Rav Shimeon Bar Yochai's disciple, on the elder's authority, was moved to exclaim that a man is better off throwing himself in a "fiery furnace" than embarrassing someone in public.

In sum, to those who are tempted to criticize a Torah reader, shaliach tzibor, or one of the many other fine volunteers who assist us with our service each week, I suggest you ask if whatever problem you noticed is sufficiently egregious to risk your share in the World to Come because of it. I also remind you that a member of the Ritual Committee or one of the gabbais. If enough people share your view, the matter will be addressed appropriately and resolved.

To those who voluntarily make themselves vulnerable to the criticism of others by agreeing to assist us in maintaining the excellent quality service we are privileged to enjoy each week, I thank each of you. I also remind you that if anyone ever comes up to you and attempts to admonish you "on behalf of the congregation", that person cannot possibly speak for all those who surround you each week in the spirit of community, and please know that he/she most certainly does not speak for me.



To Volunteer

Contact the following people to help:

To daven:

Norm Green	938-8110
David Rubin	937-5164
Donna Silver	382-2407
Elliot Sturman	461-2455

To read Torah or Haftorah:

Seth Rosen	216-1594
Sharon Kushner	659-1926

To give a drash:

Jeff Rabin	553-0904
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To get help preparing a drash:

Levi Shnairson	653-9439
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To learn to Daven or read Torah or Haftorah:

David Rubin	937-5164
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To help with child care:

Irit Sorokin	938-1437
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To sponsor a kiddish:

Sereta Stevens	275-0931
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To host a Shabbat lunch for Hachnasat Orchim

Sharon Kushner	659-1926
Judy Massarano	652-9652

To contribute to the *Minyan Monthly*

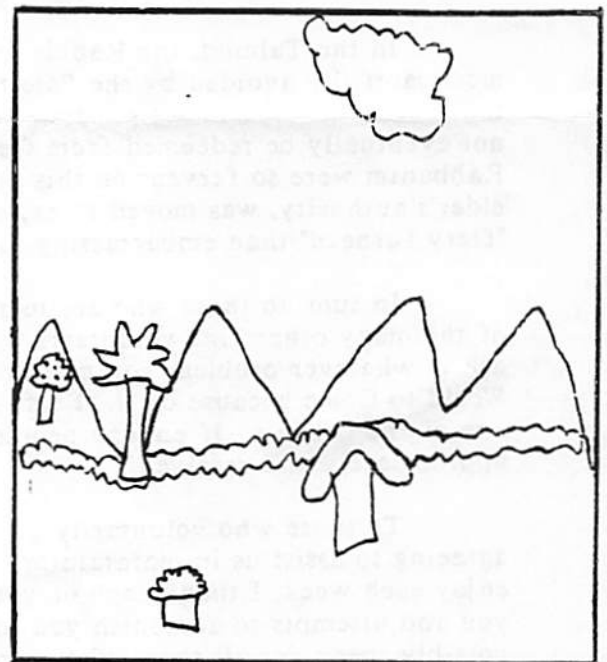
Larry Harris	551-0161
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Minyan Monthly will be Monthly

I would like the *Minyan Monthly* to appear monthly. You can help by sending your letters, announcements, and articles to me (Larry Harris, 1449 S. Canfield, Los Angeles CA 90035) by the end of each month. The *Monthly* will then appear two weeks later. If regular contributors submit without further solicitation, it will be much easier for me to make the *Monthly* monthly. Submissions on IBM-PC diskette are preferred. (The diskette is promptly returned). Please mark your calendars to send me the goods a week before month-end.

Larry Harris



The *Minyan Monthly* is published by Sharon Grob, illustrated by Ruth Askren, and edited by Larry Harris. If you would like to publish a letter, announcement, or article in the next issue, please send it to Larry at 1449 S. Canfield, Los Angeles CA 90035. Phone (213) 551-0161 at home or (213) 743-8362 at work. Submissions on IBM PC diskette are encouraged and greatly appreciated. (The diskette is promptly returned.)

The *Minyan Monthly* asks that each family receiving the *Monthly* pay a fee of \$10 per year. This amount is now due. Please make your check payable to TBA Library *Minyan-Minyan Monthly* and send it c/o Eddie Rabin, 1181 Hi Point St., Los Angeles, CA 90035.