

MINYAN MONTHLY

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Tammuz 5752

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

--Norman H. Green

When I agreed to take on the position of chairing the Library Minyan Steering Committee, I expected it to be virtually a do-nothing job, primarily presiding over an occasional meeting, assisting in coordinating an occasional event. The responsibility of representing the Minyan on the synagogue's Executive Committee seemed like a minor one, particularly since I already attend all of the Executive Committee and Board meetings in my capacity as the congregation's Secretary. Further, Barry Rosenblatt graciously agreed to handle that aspect of the job. In fact, the number of telephone conversations, meetings and other activity has surprised me. With the new-found knowledge of the actual efforts that must have been made by my predecessor, Bob Braun, it is with sincere gratitude that I thank him now, on behalf of the Minyan, for his service over the past years.

Likewise, thanks and congratulations go to Stan Goldstein, recently retired as chair of the ritual committee, Julia Arango, former Drash coordinator (who had stepped in on an interim basis after previously relinquishing the position to another member who subsequently left the country) Elka Tenner (who is hoping to be replaced as chair of the Kiddush committee), and all the other people who contribute their time and effort to serving and improving the Library Minyan.

Special thanks also go to the new Treasurer, Sandra Braun. You can reach her at (310) 838-4272, or send money to 1743 Holt Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90035

At the impetus of Fran Grossman, an ad hoc committee is holding meetings and planning changes in the area of child care. The first improvements have already been instituted. At the last Steering Committee meeting, the Library Minyan determined that the Junior Congregation program should continue through the Summer.

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--Message - Continued

Dan Wolpe agreed to continue leading the services for four additional weeks, and the Minyan's treasury is picking up the salary cost, while the Shul continues to provide janitorial services, grape juice and cake, etc. Rabbi Neal Weinberg volunteered to lead service on one of the Shabbatot when Dan was unavailable, and it went very well. We have not finally determined whether to rely on volunteer adult leaders for the second half of the Summer, to attempt to hire someone for this, or to discontinue Junior Congregation for the month of August. Please share your thoughts on this. If you are interested in volunteering to lead the Junior Congregation for one or more services, please let me know. Plans are being made to re-introduce some Shabbosdik religious content in the child care as well.

With all the activity in our community and the plethora of committees and individual positions in the Minyan, one area that has received relatively little recent attention in hospitality. Unfortunately, many people, including some of our members, find the Library Minyan to be cold or even unfriendly, and the Minyan is beginning to develop a reputation that reflects this. Some of this could be alleviated by very simple steps, such as by approaching strangers (or even familiar faces that you don't happen to know) and engaging them in conversation, or even merely assisting them to find the right page in the *Siddur* or *Chumash*.

Next month, a new hospitality committee, now in formation under the leadership of Abby Harris, will begin to address this problem in more significant and tangible ways. Among the possibilities being considered are assigning "ushers" to welcome and assist people arriving at services, both visitors and long-

time members. Another is reviving our tradition of arranging for hosts for Shabbos luncheon guests.

The congregation's new associate rabbi, Perry Netter, will be leading services next door approximately once a month. Consequently, Rabbi Rembaum will be davening with us more often in the coming months. I know we will all welcome his increased involvement here at the Minyan.

Finally, the High Holy Days are approaching. All of you should understand that it will be necessary to show tickets each time that you enter the building. This is necessary not only for security reasons but also because of the increased likelihood this year of a fire marshal's inspection, since construction of the new school building will probably be underway.

TREASURER'S COLUMN

--Sandra Braun

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge for our half-page ad honoring Dvorah Colker. Special thanks to the following members whose pledges were received before June 24:

Meyer and Sandy Brenner
Carl and Tove Sunshine
Sherrin and Phil Rosenthal
Alan and Sheila Spiwak
Fran and Joel Grossman
Gina and George Sanchez
Karen Goldberg and Efrem Grail
Aron and Michelle Wolf
Alan Tobbin and Janet Hadda
Grace and Ira Grossman
Linda and Amos Amit

Please honor your pledge today.

The Library Minyan has a new Treasurer. Send your donations to Library Minyan, c/o Sandra Braun, 1743 S. Holt Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90035.

WORDS FROM THE DEPARTING CHAIR

--Robert Braun

It seems like only weeks ago that I abdicated by coveted position as Chair of the Library Minyan Steering Committee in favor of the people's choice, Norm Green. As I sit in my solitary pew, I contemplate the accomplishments of my term.

And what accomplishments they are. The victory against Hussein in the Gulf War, the eradication of the Communist threat and the reinstatement of the parole evidence rule in California. Truly, an historic term of office. I wish Norm the best of luck in surpassing these achievements.

At the same time, my commitment to public service has not diminished. In addition to a commitment to exploring and perhaps redefine the Shabbat nap, I, along with Sandra, Alan Broidy, and Joel and Fran Grossman continue to chair the Minyan's contribution to the Temple Beth Am Capital Campaign, along with great help from many others who have made or solicited commitments and opened their homes to these efforts.

The response by the Minyan to the Capital Campaign has been gratifying. Most of you know that we have a goal, defined in dollars. We also have another and more meaningful goal, and that is to gain the support of every member of the Minyan.

One of the defining characteristics of the Minyan is that it is more than a group of people who pray together. The Minyan is a community, and the building program for Temple Beth Am is a statement of community. The plans are designed to enhance the ability of Temple Beth Am, including the Minyan, to serve the community, not to stand as an edifice to the past.

We look forward to your help in achieving our communal goals. Anyone who has questions about the building program or the Capital Campaign, and anyone who would like to make a commitment or help in the effort should feel free to call Alan, Joel, Fran, Sandra or me.

ON APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE IN SHUL

--Larry Harris

Our secular world separates us with symbols, images and words that remind us of our minority status. Our synagogue is a refuge from this world.

Popular culture is pervasive to the point that many of us carry its expressions unconsciously. But when we carry them into the synagogue, we depreciate its refuge.

Many weeks ago during the Torah Service, the common explicative, "Jesus Christ!" was uttered in frustration over a small matter. Without doubt, the utterer emoted unconsciously. Although the entire congregation must have heard the explicative, few noticed it since this expression is common in the secular world.

The literal meaning of this explicative is "Jesus the messiah." This meaning surely was not intended, but it was heard. For a moment, the synagogue became a little less distinct from the secular world.

Controlling our thoughtless expressions is difficult. Perhaps we will blurt them out less often if we simply would remind ourselves to relax a bit more in synagogue.

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 933-8894
Sharon Kushner 271-5845
Dan Wolpe
Paul Young
Drashot:
Mark Rothman 659-0269
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
Hospitality
Abby Harris 556-7778
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
Ronnie Cohen 658-8057
Scheduling Events-Master Calendar
Lida Baker 934-3663
Shiva Minyans
Norm Saiger 837-5927
Rachel Green 938-8110

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