



July 2012
Tamuz/Av - 5772

Morgantown, West Virginia

It is a Tree of Life to
those that hold fast to it.

RABBI

David Feder

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RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi David Feder

As I've thought about what to write for this final message, I took a look at what I wrote for my very first message to you almost ten years ago. I spoke of changes and preparing for them. At that time I wrote, "I'm in the midst of packing, encircled by boxes and clutter, hoping to find at least a tiny island of logic and order in the midst of this sea of chaos. I'm looking forward to a time in the very near future, when every item will be in its box and every box in the trailer of a moving van rolling eastward toward Morgantown. There, the next transition will take place, from neat and orderly boxes to the disarray of unpacking and hopefully, with a little luck, to some semblance of order."

Once again, I find myself surrounded by boxes and clutter, sorting through ten years of assorted stuff and memories. At this time, I don't know when a moving van will arrive or to where I will be heading, but I know that I will be carrying with me those memories of my years here.

Ten years ago, I wrote of preparing for children, learning to assemble cribs and changing tables and buying a minivan. The minivan is gone, as are the cribs, the changing tables and even the car seats. The adventures of diaper changing have morphed into soccer practices and

scout meetings with more adventures to come.

A decade ago, I said, "We have already been showered with warmth and assistance from so many people. We are so very grateful for all of the kindness and all of the help that we have already experienced. We look forward to sharing our new beginnings with you. As we are poised to celebrate the arrival of 5763, may it be a year of sweetness and goodness, happiness and health, and new beginnings for all of us."



We still remain grateful for all the warmth and kindness that has been showered upon us. We remember our opportunities to celebrate and to mourn together, to learn together, to worship together, to experience Judaism and Jewish community together and to grow and grow a little older together. We indeed shared many new beginnings.

And when we celebrate the arrival of the year 5773, we will no longer be in your midst, but you will remain in our hearts and memories. I continue to wish for a year of sweetness and goodness, happiness and health and new beginnings for all of us.

*L'shalom,
Rabbi David Feder*

Thank you to Cheryl Torsney who responded immediately to my request for an appropriate poem with which to bid farewell to the Feder family

CAPRICE

Alter Esselin

Translated by Joseph Esselin

I will put on my newest clothes,
And tame my wild shock of hair
And if I can find one, who knows,
A cane may give the right air.
Then I'll go and look for landscapes and views
Exactly like Heine's and Milton's muse
Provided for them. How I long
To compose a nature song
In true celebration of her allure,
No longer to be the "Laureate of the Poor,"
Without sparkling gems, cooing doves,
Or spring flowers. But the one God above
Knows that everything I set down
Is drawn from a frosted windowpane.
What the poet finds in his heart
Is the only subject of his art.

Alter Esselin, (originally Orkeh Serebrenik) was a Russian-born American poet who wrote in Yiddish. He was born in Tchernigov, Russia on April 23, 1889 and died in [Milwaukee, Wisconsin](#) on November 22, 1974

ק א פ ר י ז

ב'וועל אנטאן אן אנטאג א נייעם,
פארקאמען די ווילדע משופרינע,
(ווען איך האב נאך בא וועמען צו לייען
א שטאק, און אין לאץ א גארדיניע)
און ארויסגיין באטראכטן א לאנדשאפט א שיינע,
ווי אמאל פלעגט א היינע,
צי ווארטסווארד, צי מילטאן;
א, ווי עס ווילט זיך א שפיל טאן
מיט אדעם, מיט ברייטע נאטור-פאנאראמעס!
זאל מען ניט זאגן: א דיכטער פון דלות,
אן שטיינער וואס פינקלען, אן טויבן
וואס טירקלען; אן בלומען מאצווע,
כאטש איין גאט ווייס דעם אמת,
אז איך מאל זיי פון ווינטער שויבן,
אז דער יאדער פון דיכטונג ליגט אין מחשבה.



A lot has happened over the last few months, and a lot more is on the horizon. Change is a constant part of our lives. Change can bring pain and sorrow and it can also bring joy and celebration. Love, faith, TOLerance and community help us all survive and thrive with the uncertainties life throws at us.

The tragic passing of Jonah Solomon reminds us of the of the brevity of life, and the importance of cherishing every moment we have with our loved ones, no matter how brief that time might be. It was encouraging to see the community come together and offer support and love to the Solomon family. I hope you all join with me as I offer my sincere condolences to Deva and Heidi as well as the entire family.

Another tragedy struck our larger community recently. Ryan Alexander Cranford, a Morgantown High Student, took his life on April 30th. No one is entirely sure of the circumstances that led to this tragic event except that some form of bullying took place. This tragedy has made all of us look more closely and wonder if we are missing anything in our children's lives.

With these thought in mind, Joan Addicks has decided to resign from her position as President of the Board to spend more time with her family. She

will continue to serve as an active member in the board.

Another change that is occurring within the TOL Family is that we are saying goodbye to Rabbi Feder. I wish Rabbi Feder and his entire family all the best in the next phase of their lives. I urge you all to send a note or give a call to the Feders and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Our new spiritual leader will be arriving shortly to take up the mantle as our new Rabbi at TOL. Rabbi Joe Hample will begin his term on August 1st. Rabbi Joe and his Partner Barry are excited to begin their new phase of life here in Morgantown and are currently looking for housing in the community. Please join me in welcoming them to our Synagogue, our Community and our Families.

Over the next several months, we will see more changes at TOL. As we begin this new chapter in our community, I hope that you will be as excited as I am and help us bring about a resurgence of TOL as the spiritual, religious and community center of Judaism within North Central West Virginia.

Shalom,

Adam Rosefsky
Acting President,
Tree of Life Synagogue.

From the Solomon Family

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our Tree of Life family for all of your thoughts and prayers for strength and support after the loss of our infant son, Jonah Henry.

*Love to you all,
Heidi and Deva Solomon*



Dan, Daya, Meera, and Matanya Solomon, along with Ruth Krawetz, join Deva and Heidi in thanking the congregation during this very difficult time. We appreciate everything everyone has said and done, including the cards, hugs, and donations in memory of Jonah.

Thanks to Barbara Jacowitz and the TOL Sisterhood for doing the Oneg after the Memorial Service for Jonah and to Joan Addicks for preparing the meal of consolation after Jonah's funeral. Very special thanks to Rabbi Feder and Karen, for their spiritual and practical guidance.

Tree of Life Congregation Transition Committee Report to Congregation July 2012

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) recommends that congregations seeking new spiritual leadership establish a Transition Committee. On March 18, 2012 the TOL Board created the Transition Committee ("TC"). Ed Gerson, past president, volunteered as chair, and was joined by eleven volunteers. The Transition Committee enables the Board to shepherd the congregation and rabbis in response to changes, many of which may have already occurred.

This report is the first of several anticipated TC reports in the TOL Newsletter, as the process itself will take months to complete.

Ed and Lee Kass have reviewed numerous URJ sources for goals. URJ's "Mazel Tov, It's a Rabbi!" (http://urj.org/cong/board/staff/?syspage=article&item_id=69343&printable=1) is one of many and is recommended reading.

Here are our initial efforts and goals to date:

- 1 – In a letter of thanks to Rabbi Feder for his years of service we offered to stay in touch with him and his family to both keep them informed and to assist them with any needs that arise. A subcommittee has already met with Rabbi Feder for these purposes.

The Transition Committee urges congregants to express your gratitude to Rabbi Feder for his years of service to TOL. Please send your own individual recognitions and acknowledgments of gratitude directly to: Rabbi David Feder, 1365 Riddle Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505 or to ravdfeder@gmail.com. The committee is confident this will be a timely and appropriate effort on your part.

- 2 – The Transition Committee continues to anticipate and respond to Rabbi Hample's relocation needs prior to his first day at TOL (Aug. 1, 2012): housing, auto, home, health insurance, and legal needs. The committee has had phone and email contact with Rabbi Joe on a regular basis and also sent a welcome letter confirming our commitment.
- 3 – We have arranged for several volunteers who plan to introduce Rabbi Hample to local citizens and leadership in August 2012: WVU, other institutions, entities and businesses.
- 4 - URJ encourages the Board to "share as much information with your community as possible." You have already received email notices announcing Rabbi Joseph Hample's employment effective August 1, 2012.

Transition requires that you, the congregant, share as much information with your rabbi and your leadership as possible. The TC plans to hold focus groups with Rabbi Joe and the congregation, so that fellow congregants can discuss how they feel about the transition. The TC also plans to phone members of the congregation to learn of any special concerns they feel should be addressed by the committee and the Rabbi.

Please feel free to submit any inquiries or suggestions to:

Ed Gerson, Chair (304.685.2685), geron1@earthlink.net
Richard Cohen, Vice-Chair (304.685.3859), rpc116c@aim.com
Lee B. Kass, Housing (304.816.4787), lbc7@cornell.edu
Brian Lemoff, Education (304.594.2457), blemoff@yahoo.com



**It was cold. It was wet.
Thank you Marty for the fire!**



Community Sharing Page

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Mazel Tov

to
Matanya Solomon.

Matanya, age 15, has been awarded 2 scholarships to *The Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts* in Torrington, CT, the place for internationally acclaimed professional ballet training.

After just about a year of dancing with the Morgantown Dance Studio, Matanya has been accepted into Nutmeg's Summer Dance Intensive. He also received a scholarship for Nutmeg's Residency Year Round Professional Training Program. Matanya will decide during July if he will attend Nutmeg Conservatory full time this coming fall.

Mazel Tov

to
Cheryl Torsney

Cheryl has accepted a position as Senior Vice Provost at University of Texas @ El Paso starting July 15th.

Cheryl also reports that there are lots of Jews in El Paso and a terrific synagogue: Temple Mount Sinai. Also a Federation!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Rabbi Joe will be holding Pre-High Holiday Adult Ed, Details will be coming soon via E-mail.

JULY CALENDAR

July 6	7:30pm	Family led service
July 7	10 am	Family led Torah Study
July 13	7:30pm	Family led service
July 14	10am	Family led service
July 20	7:30pm	Family led service
July 21	10am	Family led service
July 27	7:30pm	Family led service
July 28	10am	Family led Torah study

While we are transitioning between Rabbi Feder, who is on vacation in July and Rabbi Joe, who begins as our Rabbi on August 1, services and Torah study will be led by the Congregants. Please contact Neal or Richard or Ed if you are willing to lead a service. We will be contacting folks and coordinating. Richard will be out of town on July 6th and 7th.

The Ritual Committee:

Neal Newfield nnewfiel@wvu.edu

Richard Cohen rpc116c@netscape.net

*We note with sorrow
the passing of*

Ruth Millstone
widow of
Richard Millstone
and mother of
Geoffrey Millstone

Jonah Henry Solomon
son of
Deva & Heidi Solomon

Shirley Glick
Ann Selinger's Mother



*May their memory
be a blessing*

Share Your Simcha
Buy a Leaf on

THE SIMCHA TREE

\$250/leaf

\$2500/Small Stone

\$5000/Large Stone

Contact

**Merle STOLzenberg/
Barbara Jacowitz**

Remember a loved one
with a
Yahrzeit Plaque
\$400 DONATION
Contact: Bennett Millstone

MI SHEBEIRACH / WELLNESS PRAYERS

Please remember to consult with those who are in need of healing, before publicly adding their names to the Mi Shebeirach list. With their permission, we would like to add whatever support we can to their recovery and healing.



Tree of Life Congregation
PO Box 791
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791
(304) 292-7029
<http://etzhaim.org>

FIRST CLASS MAIL



CALLING TREE

The TOL Transition Committee
has approved the formation
of a Calling Tree.

The Calling Tree, chaired by Daya Solomon,
is a small group of people
who will be phoning community
members over the summer
to announce transition news,
clarify questions, and make note
of any concerns.

The Calling Tree looks forward
to speaking with you
and wishes everyone a
wonderful summer.

