

Rabbinically Speaking

Life road map: Don't let anger deter you from getting to your destination

By RABBI DAVID WEIZMAN • Congregation Beth Shalom, Clearwater

If you have ever been on a road trip with young children, you can expect to hear a constant refrain from the back of the car: When will we get there? So you give the update as frequently as necessary.

Moshe Rebeunu had to field many requests for information and updates on the long trip through the wilderness. But their challenges admittedly were of a much different scale. The Israelites didn't have the same access to basic essentials like water. In their desperation, they called out Moses and Aaron, blaming them for their predicament: Why did you take us out of Egypt? Only to have us perish of thirst in the dessert? The leaders sought help from God who gave specific directions: Moses, take your staff, the one that you used in Egypt to signal the plagues and the miracles. Go to that big rock over there, and speak to it, and water will come forth for the people to drink.

However, in his exasperation with this bunch of complainers, Moses deterred from the specific directions. He did not speak to the rock; instead he yelled at the people. You rebels! Nothing but kvetching I've heard the whole way. Not a thank you, not a 'please can I have a drink of water.' You want water? I'll give you water; and Moses struck the rock with his staff, not once, but twice. The Torah tells us that Moses really lost his temper. It says in the Talmud that when a prophet loses his temper, he loses his ability to be a prophet, he loses his *nevuah*. Abruptly the nation sees Moses as a regular guy who gets angry like everyone else, and no longer as an exemplar of behavior, no longer a leader. It is for this reason that Moses does not enter the Promised Land and that he is buried in a forgotten tomb.

Anger is one of the most common emotions that human beings encounter. If you make it through the day without having that feeling once, then you are having a really good day. So it is incumbent upon us to learn how to cope with anger, and to begin learning that at an early age. I used to have a punching bag, a speed bag; that worked. Splitting firewood, that's also a good outlet.

Some people write letters to the object of their displeasure. Long detailed and well-crafted dissertations on how wrong someone can actually be. The thing about a hand written letter on paper, with a pen, is that when you have finally put the finishing touches on it, you still have to fold it up and carefully fit it into an envelope, find a stamp for it, which usually takes some rummaging, and finally get it out to the mail box. I have a few of those letters in a shoe box with other sentimental memorabilia, where they remain as a reminder to me that sometimes I have exercised good judgment, and that, by golly, I can do it again if I really try. The catharsis of writing is usually all that you really need to do anyways. But nowadays we write all our letters on the e-mail. In no time you can compose a masterpiece of retribution inspired by the vigor of anger and send it out in an instant to a waiting recipient, or perhaps to 520 in-boxes. Just the slightest push of that send button and the words can never be reeled back in.

Now there are times when you really need to send a message, when it is not only a purging you are after. So maybe you write a second letter, or you make arrangements to meet in person, and before you do, you figure out what it is that you want to accomplish, and how to say what you have to say in a way that will be received in a positive way, so that you can achieve what it is that you intend to do. That would be something really good, like water flowing out of a rock. You may have seen that in the woods; a stream of water coming right out of the rocks on the side of a mountain. That's the source of life that God was telling Moses about. *Baruch she'amar v'haya olam*, Blessed is the One who spoke and the world came into being. We remind ourselves as we begin the Morning Prayer, to emulate the creative force of God's word, in our own words. Our words can bring forth water that nourish our relationships as long as we speak from that place of prophecy.

Safe journey.

The Rabbinically Speaking column is provided as a public service by the Jewish Press in cooperation with the Pinellas County Board of Rabbis. Columns are assigned, on a rotating basis by the board.



Congregations

Temple Ahavat Shalom Palm Harbor

Beach outing: The Temple Ahavat Shalom Young Couples Club will host a family day at the beach on Honeymoon Island on Sunday, July 25, beginning at 10 a.m.. For more information, contact the temple office.

Musical Shabbat: Join in on Shabbat Unplugged on Friday, Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m. for a joyful and prayerful service with a full band.

Summer Camp program: The Krieger Early Childhood Center camp continues through Friday, Aug. 13. Enrollment is still being accepted for children 2-8 years old. Some activities include: swimming, field trips, cooking activities, sports training, arts and crafts, Spanish lessons, biking, picnics, and much, much more! For more information, contact the **Jami Hodges** at (727) 785-8811, ext. 116.

Preschool sign up: Enrollment is under way at the Krieger Early Childhood Center for the 2010-2011 school year, which begins on Aug. 25. The center is a licensed VPK provider accepting enrollment for ages 2 through Pre-K. For information call Pre-School Director **Jamie Hodges** at (727) 785-8811, ext. 116.

Religious school: The religious school is now accepting registration for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Call (727) 785-8811 ext. 4 for more information.

Cong. B'nai Emmunah Tarpon Springs

New member brunch: On Aug. 15, from 9:30 am to 11:30 a.m. the congregation will host a prospective member brunch. Representatives from the Sisterhood, Brotherhood and board will be at the synagogue to meet and welcome people.

Book talk: The Sisterhood will review the book *Zookeeper's Wife*, on Sunday Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. RSVP to **Sheila Shear** at (813)-598-6043 for directions.

Community Outreach: Join Congregation Bnai Emmunah from 2-5 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of every month as the synagogue cooks and serves dinner to the less fortunate in the community. Participants meet at Mt. Moriah Church on 772 Diss-ton Ave. S. in Tarpon Springs. Call **Ed Zisman** at (727) 808-8160 to sign up.

Religious school registration: Sunday and Hebrew

school will begin on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010. Sunday school is open for kindergarten thru seventh grade and will be from 9-11 a.m. Hebrew school will begin on Sunday Aug. 22nd and will go from 11 a.m. to noon for grades 3 thru 7. Early registration is available until Aug. 1 and will offer a \$25 discount. Registration packets can be obtained Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Congregation Bnai Emmunah at (727) 938-9000.

Young Israel/Chabad of Pinellas Palm Harbor

Alphabet lesson: Get a new perspective on the Hebrew alphabet in a new class offered on Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at Young Israel/Chabad. The class will analyze the shapes of the letters, the meaning of their names, their value in numerology and the creative force of the letters. The course is free but donations are accepted. All materials will be provided and recordings of the each class will be available for \$10 per class. For more information or to register, call (727) 789-048 or email rabbi@yichabad.com.

Parsha class: Explore the weekly Torah portion, with timely messages culled from the commentaries on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The class is free, although donations are welcome.

Cong. Beth Shalom Clearwater

Membership event: On Sunday, Aug. 24, Congregation Beth Shalom will have several opportunities to welcome new and prospective members to the synagogue. For more information, call 531-1418.

Registration: The Ethel Honigman Religious School is registering both returning and new students during July and August. Registration forms are available in the office or by e-mail request.

The school year begins on Sunday Aug. 29. All parents, students and members are invited to a pancake breakfast to note the beginning of the school year. In addition, the synagogue is coordinating these events with an onsite blood drive by Florida Blood Services.

Temple Beth-El St. Petersburg

Volunteers needed: Temple Beth-El has the opportunity to

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times



July 23	•	8:08 pm
July 30	•	8:04 pm
Aug 6	•	7:59 pm
Aug 13	•	7:53 pm
Aug 20	•	7:47 pm

operate two concession stands at Tampa Bay Rays baseball games this season, as a fundraising opportunity. About 18 volunteers, age 16 or older, are needed per game. Volunteers do not have to sign up for all the games. To sign up, call **Jim Green** at the temple or e-mail administrator@templebeth-el.com

Yiddish Vinkle: The Yiddish Vinkle Group meets every Tuesday 10-11:30 a.m. with conveners **Saverio Zuchovicki** and **Adele Pascar**.

Chabad Center of St. Petersburg

Women's class: Nourish the body and soul at the women's lunch and learn sessions from noon to 1 p.m. on Aug. 19 and Sept. 2 at the Chabad Center. Discussion will focus on the Tanya, a work based on the Kabbalah that offers guidance for every facet of day-to-day life.

English Talmud class: A Talmud class meets at the Chabad Jewish Center every Monday at 7:30 p.m. Participants can delve into the English-language Talmud and discover rabbinic lore. Men and women are welcome. There is a one-time book fee of \$18.

Summer yeshiva: A day in yeshiva begins with prayer and tefillin on Sunday, July 25 from 9-11 a.m. From prayer to study, become acquainted with classical texts such as Rashi, the primary commentator on the Torah; Shulchan Aruch, the code of Jewish Law and the Tanya. All texts will be in English. There is no charge.

Jewish Enrichment Center, Clearwater

Women's Talmud: A class in Talmud to discover the deepest Jewish thoughts from a woman's perspective will be taught by **Raizy Reich** during a lunch and learn session every other Wednesday at noon at the Jewish Enrichment Center.

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Religious Directory

PINELLAS COUNTY Reform

Temple AHAVAT SHALOM - 1575 Curlew Rd., Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Gary Klein • Cantor Deborah Jacobson • Shabbat Services: Friday 7:30 p.m. • Call for Saturday service time • Telephone: 785-8811 • Website: www.ahavatshalom.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Temple BETH-EL - 400 S. Pasadena Ave., St. Petersburg 33707 • Rabbi Michael Torop • Shoshana Shay and Barbara Mazer Gross, cantorial soloists • Shabbat Services: Friday 8 p.m. except first Friday family service, 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: 347-6136 • Web site: www.templebeth-el.com • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Congregation B'NAI EMMUNAH - 3374 Keystone Road • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2028, Tarpon Springs, 34688 • Rabbi Cyrus Arfa • Shabbat Services: Friday: 8 p.m. • First and Third Saturdays, 10 a.m. • Telephone: 938-9000 • Website: www.bnaiemmunah.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Temple B'NAI ISRAEL - 1685 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater, 33764 • Rabbi Daniel Treiser • Cantor Jennifer Duretz Peled • Services: Friday, 6:30 p.m. • Telephone: 531-5829 • Website: www.TBclearwater.org • Affiliated with Union for Reform Judaism

Conservative

Congregation BETH SHALOM - 1325 S. Belcher Road, Clearwater 33764 • Rabbi David Weizman • Rabbi Danielle Upbin, associate • Shabbat Services: Saturday 9:00 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. • Weekday services: Sunday 9 a.m., Mon. & Thurs 8:30 a.m. • Telephone: 531-1418 • Website: www.mycbsfamily.org • Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Congregation BETH SHOLOM - 1844 54th St. S., Gulfport 33707 • Rabbi Israel Dvorkin • Cantor David Wicentowski • Shabbat Services: Saturday 9:15 a.m. • Telephone: 321-3380 • Independent

Congregation B'NAI ISRAEL - 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg 33710 • Rabbi Jacob Luski • Hazzan Paul D. Goldstein • Shabbat Services: Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. • Daily services: Mon. - Fri. 7:45 a.m., Sun. 9 a.m.; evening minyan • Telephone: 381-4900 • Website: www.cbistpete.org • Affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Orthodox

YOUNG ISRAEL-CHABAD - 3696 Fisher Road, Palm Harbor, 34683 • Rabbi Shalom Adler • Shabbat services, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; Youth service, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. • Minyan: Sunday, 8 a.m., Weekdays, 6:45 a.m. Evening minyan, Sunday - Thursday, 7 p.m. • Telephone: 789-0408 • Website: www.yichabad.com

CHABAD CENTER OF ST. PETERSBURG - 4010 Park St. N., St. Petersburg 33709 • Rabbi Alter Korf • Shabbat Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. • Telephone: 344-4900 • Website: www.chabadsp.com

CLEARWATER JEWISH ENRICHMENT CENTER - 1767 Magnolia Drive, Clearwater • Rabbi Shmuel Reich • Services: Shabbat and evenings beginning at sundown, mornings at 10:30 a.m. • email: clearwaterjew@gmail.com • Telephone: 727-474-3663

Independent

Congregation BETH TIKVAH - P.O. Box 81, Tarpon Springs, 34688 • Zell Savitz, spiritual leader; George Rosenthal, Elaine Markowitz and Mae Knotek, cantorial soloists • Shabbat services: first and third Friday, 7:30 p.m. • Coral Oaks, 900 W. Lake Road, Palm Harbor • Telephone: 446-9241

PASCO COUNTY Conservative

BETH TEFILLAH/JCC OF WEST PASCO - 9841 Scenic Drive, Port Richey, 34668 • Alan Goldberg, spiritual leader • Shabbat Services: Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. • Telephone: 727-847-3814 • Independent

Orthodox

CHABAD JEWISH CENTER OF WEST PASCO • Rabbi Yossi Eber • 9945 Trinity Blvd., Suite 5. Trinity, FL 34655 • Telephone: 727-376-3366 • Website: www.ChabadWP.org • email: info@chabadwp.org