

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
JANUARY 2017

28 Marvin Smelkinson



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**  
JANUARY 2017

No Anniversary



WELCOME ברוכים הבאים

BETH EMETH  
CONGREGATION

Allied with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



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Rabbi Leo M. Abrami

### Rabbi Akiba and Ben Azzai's Great Debate

Our Talmudic Sages once asked themselves an intriguing question: What is the most important principle of the Torah? Rabbi Akiba argued that it is the Golden Rule: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). Akiba's student, Ben Azzai, differed. He suggested that the most important principle of the Torah is "This is the record of the descendants of Adam. When God created human beings, he made them in the likeness of God" (Genesis 5:1).

In other terms, you must respect all human beings because they were all created in the image of God and endowed with an intellectual mind and a moral conscience. Therefore if you harm the divine image in any of its forms, you would be denying the essential kinship that exists between all human beings.

For Rabbi Akiba, love should be present in all our interpersonal relationships, but for Ben Azzai, acknowledging the Divine image in every person, is by far the most comprehensive principle of the entire Torah - the bedrock of all biblical teachings. Indeed, says Ben Azzai in the Wisdom of our Sages (Aboth 4:3):

He (Ben Azzai) would say: "Do not despise any human being and do not dismiss anything as of no value - for there is not a person who does not have his hour, and no thing that does not have its usefulness"

## SHABBAT VA-ERA/ROSH CHODESH

Friday Night Services - January 27, 2017

7:30 p.m.

The Oneg will be sponsored by the Congregation  
All are welcome

Saturday Morning Services -  
January 28, 2017 9:00 a.m.

Torah Reading Rabbi Leo M. Abrami

Exodus 6:2-7:7 pp. 232-236

Numbers 28:9-15 p. 695

Haftarah:

Isaiah 66:1-24,23 pp. 944-947

The Kiddush will be sponsored by the Congregation  
All are welcome

If anyone wants a name listed for a mishebeirach, please call the office by Wednesday of the week and the name will go into the bulletin for that week.

A prayer for healing can be said at any time and does not require a minyan. The Amidah (page 113 in Siddur Sim Shalom) shows a format that can be used: "May it be your will, Lord our God and God of our ancestors, to send perfect healing, of body and soul, to \_\_\_\_\_, along with all others who are stricken".

George Allen, Melissa Engber, Peter Gottlieb, Thomas Hannagian, Evie Martinez, Adrienne Flisser, Howard Marshall, Michael Newman, Rosalyn Podbielak,

**We wish "Refuah Shelemah," a speedy recovery to Congregants, family and friends who are ill. We encourage you to call or visit with them and wish them well.**

**Mi Shebeirach, by Debbie Friedman**

**Mi she-bei-rach a-vo-tei-nu  
M'kor ha'bra-cha l'i-mo-tei-nu  
May the source of strength  
Who blessed the ones before us,  
Help us find the courage  
To make our lives a blessing,  
And let us say, Amen**

**Mi she-bei-rach i-mo-tei-nu  
M'kor ha-brach-cha l'a-voti-nu  
Bless those in need of healing  
With R'fu-a sh'lei-ma  
The renewal of body,  
The renewal of spirit  
And let us say,  
Amen**

Please advise Rabbi Abrami of anyone who is ill and would like to be visited. Call the office to provide details.

**Rabbi Abrami is available for counseling on  
Mondays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
(by appointment).**

**The following Yahrzeits will be observed during the coming week. Kaddish may also be said on Friday Evening & Saturday morning January 27th & January 28th, 2017.**

**El Malei Rachamim, the memorial prayer, may be said on the Monday or Thursday preceding the Yahrzeit at the 8:00 am Minyan.**

Jan	Shevat	Deceased	Relationship	Observant
28	1	Agatha Plotkin	Mother	Rochelle Dishler
29	2	Sarah Leibovitz	Mother	Leah Tarnor
<b>Feb</b>				
1	5	Morris Grossman	Father-in-law	Gail Grossman
1	5	Aryh Silverman	Brother	A. David Silverman
2	6	Leslie Merchant	Sister-in-law	Beverly Merchant
3	7	Ludolf Heidecker	Father	Andrew Heidecker
3	7	Rebecca Rich	Mother	Gerald Rich

The Minyanaires is a dedicated group of Jewish individuals who meet on Monday and Thursday at 8:00 a.m. to pray shacharit, the morning service. Everyone is welcome, whether saying kaddish or not.

*Silence in the Sanctuary  
Even a few whispered words can destroy the  
ambiance of prayer & meditation.  
We appreciate your cooperation.*