



***Unity Shabbat***  
*Celebrating the Merger of*  
***Congregation Rodef Sholom***  
*and*  
***Temple Beth Israel***



*Friday, August 23, 2013*  
*18 Elul 5773*

*A house is built by wisdom,  
And is established by understanding;  
By knowledge are its rooms filled  
With all precious and beautiful things.*  
*Proverbs 24:3*



## Consecration of a Merged Synagogue

In the spirit of our Jewish faith, we consecrate this newly merged house of worship with prayers of thanksgiving and invoke upon it the blessing of God.



שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד!

*Hear, O Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!*

בְּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מְלָכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

*Blessed is God's glorious kingdom for ever and ever!*

Our synagogues have always been the dwelling place of the Jewish spirit. Our teachings have been based on the Jewish principles of faith, love and justice. When words of Torah pass between us, the Divine Presence is in our midst. Our doors have been open to the stranger and the needy. May this newly merged congregation we now consecrate keep alive the beauty of our noble heritage.

Wine is a symbol of joy. May all who dwell within these walls, and all who enter here, know contentment, happiness, and peace.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

The open Bible is raised

The Torah has been our life; it has taught us how to live. May this Temple be a place for learning and doing. May the hearts of all who dwell here be filled with a love of the Torah and its teachings.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וַצִּוָּנוּ לַעֲסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer ki-de-sha-nu be-mits-vo-tav ve-tsi-va-nu la-a-sok be-di-ve-rei To-rah.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, by whose Mitzvot we are hallowed, who commands us to engage in the study of Torah.



*Psalm 15*

יי, מִי־יִגוֹר בְּאַהֲלֶיךָ, מִי־יִשְׁכֵּן בְּהַר קֹדֶשְׁךָ?  
הוֹלֵךְ תָּמִים וּפְעֵל צָדִיק וְדֹבֵר אֱמֶת בְּלִבּוֹ.

O God, who may abide in Your house? Who may dwell in Your holy mountain?

*Those who are upright; who do justly; who speak the truth within their hearts.*

לֹא־יִגְדֹל עַל־לִשְׁנוֹ, לֹא־עָשָׂה לְרָעָהוּ רָעָה,  
וְחָרְפָּה לֹא־נִשְׂאָ עַל־קֶרְבוֹ.  
נִבְזָה בְּעֵינָיו נִמְאָס, וְאֶת־יְרֵאֵי יי יִכְבֵּד.

Who do not slander others, or wrong them, or bring shame upon them.

*Who scorn the lawless, but honor those who revere their God.*

נִשְׁבַּע לְהִרְעוֹת וְלֹא יָמִיר,  
כִּסְפוֹ לֹא־נָתַן בְּנִשְׁחָד וְשָׁחַד עַל־נֶפֶשׁ לֹא־לָקַח.

Who give their word, and, come what may, do not retract.

*Who do not exploit others, who never take bribes.*

עֹשֶׂה אֱלֹהָ לֹא יִמוּט לְעוֹלָם.

Those who live in this way shall never be shaken.





The Mezuzah is raised

This ancient symbol speaks to us of our need to love God and to live by the words of the Eternal One. We affix the Mezuzah to the doorpost of this entrance with the hope that it will always remind us of our duties to God and to one another. May the divine spirit fill this newly merged congregation—the spirit of love and kindness and consideration for all people.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְקַבּוֹעַ מְזוּזָה.

Ba-ruch a-ta, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, me-lech ha-o-lam, a-sheer ki-de-sha-nu be-mits-vo-tav ve-tsi-va-nu lik-bo-a me-zu-zah.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, by whose Mitzvot we are hallowed, who commands us to affix the Mezuzah.



בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ  
וְהִנֵּי־עָנוּ לְיָמֵן הָזֶה.

Blessed is Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this happy day.



"Unless God builds the house, its builders toil in vain."

In this awareness we pray that our Temple be blessed by the sense of God's presence.

Accept, O God, our offering of thanksgiving for the promise of security and happiness this spiritual home represents, and fortify our resolve to make it, now and always, a temple



dedicated to You. Let it be filled with the beauty of holiness and the warmth of love. May the guest and stranger find within it welcome and friendship. So will it ever merit the praise: "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling-places, O Israel!"

MAH TOVU ohalecha, Yaakov,  
mishk'notecha, Yisrael!

מַה-טֹּבוֹ אֹהֲלֶיךָ, יַעֲקֹב,  
מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ, יִשְׂרָאֵל!

For all who are assembled here, and for all who will enter these doors, we invoke Your blessing:

יְיָ יִשְׁמְרֵצֶאֱתָךְ וּבֹאֲךָ, מֵעַתָּה וְעַד-עוֹלָם.

May the Lord watch over you when you go out and when you come in, now and always. Amen.

May the door of this synagogue be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for fellowship.

May it welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.

May the door of this synagogue be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May its threshold be no stumbling block to young or straying feet.

May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness, and harshness.

May this synagogue be, for all who enter, the doorway to a richer and more meaningful life. Amen.



## Remembering Our Past

As we close this chapter in the story of our congregation,

*Our memories go with us.*

We recall at this time those joyous events we celebrated within the walls of Temple Beth Israel, our beloved spiritual home, and remember the smiles, the pride, the laughter, the tears.

*Our memories go with us.*

We remember baby namings, Bar and Bar Mitzvah ceremonies, Confirmations, weddings, anniversaries and special occasions.

*Our memories go with us.*

We recall the cycle of Torah readings, Sabbaths of rest and learning, festive days, Purim costumes, Kiddush in the Sukkah, Chanukah lights.

*Our memories go with us.*

We remember the solemnity of the High Holy Days, the music, the sound of the shofar, the grandeur of the liturgy, the reunions of family and friends.

*Our memories go with us.*

Just as we carry away the physical symbols of our religious observance, so we also carry the precious recollections of all that we experienced at Beth Israel.

*Our memories go with us.*

### **In memory...**

We remember now the men and women who but yesterday were part of our congregation and community; those who once occupied this place, but who are no more. To all who cared for us and labored for the well-being of our people and of humanity, we pay tribute. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our people and our faith, for now the task is ours.

*Their memory is a blessing forever.*

*El Malei Rachamim and Kaddish*



## Processional of Torah Scrolls

Songs: "Al Shloshah D'varim"  
"Tree of Life"

The honoring of Torah is an opening of the heart.  
We find a moment of security, a moment when the world is as  
we want it to be. Not silent and unreasonable, but simple and  
caring.

Holding the scroll and passing it with honored hands.  
Watching this, taking part in it, we find comfort in the tradition  
of Torah.

We think of generations gone and generations to come, of the  
caring of parents and the warmth of tradition. Of what is good  
in humankind, worthy of keeping. Of what is a child in  
ourselves, and the meaning of being an adult.

There are values worth preserving; traditions which bring  
comfort. A world entirely unfamiliar each day would be  
difficult to bear.

This honoring of Torah is an opening of the heart. A moment  
when the world is simple and caring. When the world, even  
now, is part of future and past.

Who will hand on what we have learned? And how? And  
when? Who will preserve what we have learned? How will  
this coming and going of life be preserved?

Torah remains a bond between generations. Extending into the  
barely remembered past, a link to the future. A source of  
comfort, amazement, of insight to all who would listen.



## Welcoming Our New Members

### "Hine Ma Tov"

Music by Danya & Eyal Rivlin

Hineih mah tov u'mah na-im  
shevet achim gam yachad.

הִנֵּה מַה־טּוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים  
שֵׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם־יַחַד.

How good and how pleasant it is that brothers and sisters dwell  
together in unity. *(Psalm 133:1)*

May God who blessed our ancestors, bless the men, women,  
and children from Temple Beth Israel who have recently joined  
our congregation in merger.

"Blessed are you who come in the name of God; We bless you  
from the house of God."

May you be granted years of good health and spiritual vigor;  
may you draw strength from the heritage of our people.

May your association with our newly merged congregation  
enrich your lives; may you find here refreshment of spirit,  
stimulation of mind, warmth of fellowship, a community of  
care and concern.

As you join with us and participate with us, may our shared  
ideals and endeavors bring you fulfillment, even as you bring  
added strength to our congregational life.

May all that we experience and do as a congregation – in  
prayer and celebration, in study and action – enable us to  
declare with joy and gratitude:

"Happy are we! How good is our portion; how pleasant our  
lot; how beautiful our heritage!"

In harmony and in unity, let us go forward together to serve our  
congregation, our people, and our God.



## "Holy Place"

Music by Debbie Friedman, based on Exodus 25:8

These are the gifts that we bring  
That we may build a holy place  
This is the spirit that we bring  
That we may build a holy place  
We will bring all the goodness  
That comes from our hearts  
And the spirit of God will dwell  
within.

These are the colors of our dreams  
We bring to make a holy place  
This is the weaving of our lives  
We bring to make a holy place  
We will bring all the goodness  
That comes from our hearts  
And the spirit of love will dwell  
within.

These are the prayers that we bring  
That we may make a holy place  
These are the visions that we seek  
That we may build this holy place  
Let our promise forever be strong  
Let our souls rise together in song  
That the spirit of God and the spirit of love  
Shechinah, will dwell within.



## "Ain't No Mountain"

Music by Naomi Less

Ain't no mountain high enough  
Ain't no valley low enough  
Ain't no river wide enough  
To keep me from getting' to you, Shabbat

Le·cha do·di lik·rat ka·la,  
pe·nei Sha·bat ne·ka·be·la.

לָכָה דּוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה,  
פְּנֵי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה.

Sha·mor ve·za·chor be·di·bur e·chad,  
hish·mi·a·nu Eil ha·me·yu·chad.

שָׁמֹר וְזָכוֹר בְּדִבּוּר אֶחָד,  
הִשְׁמִיעֵנו אֵל הַמַּיְחָד.

A·do·nai e·chad u·she·mo e·chad,  
le·sheim u·le·tif·e·ret ve·li·te·hi·la.

יְיָ אֶחָד וְשִׁמּוֹ אֶחָד,  
לְשֵׁם וּלְתִפְאָרֶת וּלְתִהְיֶלָה.

Le·cha do·di . . .

לָכָה דּוּדִי . . .

Bo·i ve·sha·lom, a·te·ret ba·a·la;  
gam be·sim·cha u·ve·tso·ho·la.  
toch e·mu·nei am se·gu·la.  
bo·i cha·la! bo·i cha·la!

בּוֹאִי בְּשָׁלוֹם, עֲטֶרֶת בַּעֲלָה;  
גַּם בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְצִהּלָה.  
תּוֹךְ אֲמוּנֵי עַם סֻגְלָה.  
בּוֹאִי כָלָה! בּוֹאִי כָלָה!

Le·cha do·di . . .

לָכָה דּוּדִי . . .



## Installation Prayers

We ask Your blessings, O God, upon those who have been elected to lead and serve our congregation. . . .

As they perform their duties, keep them ever mindful of the high purposes to which they and we are dedicated.

Help them to be faithful heirs to those who have preceded us, and worthy predecessors of those who will yet follow.

May their actions reflect strength and wisdom, and bear testimony to the great heritage which they represent.

As our newly elected officers strive to achieve their goals, may they help to keep us, too, faithful to our tasks.

Grant our leaders strength when they are weary, hope when they are discouraged, patience and perseverance when they face any obstacle.

Bless them, and those dear to them, with health of body, vigor of mind, and serenity of spirit.

May their labors reflect honor upon our congregation and our people, and may they thus bring glory to Your holy name.

Amen.

Each of those being installed recites the following:

In the presence of this congregation, I accept the honor and the responsibility conferred upon me.

I pledge to serve our congregation to the best of my ability, and to uphold its sacred values with dignity and integrity.

I pledge my time and my energy to its needs and goals, and I will attempt to serve with vigor and to lead with humility.

I will strive to act in a manner which will bring honor to us all.



Rabbi:

May the God who blessed our ancestors, and who, in every generation, has inspired men and women to lead our people, now bless our newly installed co-presidents, Inez Heal and Jeff Simon.

May they guide our congregation from strength to strength:

May they fulfill our highest hopes;

May they bring honor to us and to the Household of Israel.

Amen.



### "Oseh Shalom"

Music by Debbie Friedman

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל-  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Oseh Shalom bimromav hu yaaseh shalom aleinu v'al kol  
Yisrael, v'imru. Amen.

May God who causes peace to reign in the high heavens let  
peace descend on us, on all Israel, and all the world.



May our lives be links in a chain of goodness. As we  
recite the prayers of our people, help us to remember their  
devotion and faithfulness, their joy and suffering, which are in  
every word. May we be worthy of the holiness which is our  
heritage.

May Jewish tradition live in us and pass from us to  
generations we shall never know, enriched by the truth that we  
have found and the good deeds we have done. So may we  
fulfill our task on earth and receive Your blessing.

And when our ceremony ends and the prayers have  
ceased, help us to bring the spirit of these prayers into the  
world in which we live. May we love God above all, and our  
neighbors as ourselves, and may we be living witnesses to  
Your truth.

Adapted from Forms of Prayer



## "Hashkiveinu"

Music by Craig Taubman

Grant, O God, that we lie down in peace,  
and raise us up, our Guardian, to life renewed.  
Guard our going and coming,  
to life and to peace, evermore.

הַשְׁכִּיבֵנוּ, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְשָׁלוֹם,  
וְהַעֲמֵדֵנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵנוּ לְחַיִּים.  
וְשָׁמֹר צֵאתָנוּ וּבֹאֵנוּ  
לְחַיִּים וּלְשָׁלוֹם מִעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם.

Hashkiveinu, Adonai Eloheinu, l'shalom, v'haamideinu  
shomreinu l'chayim, ufros aleinu sukat sh'lomecha, l'chayim  
ul'shalom, mei-atah v'ad olam.

## "Shalom Rav"

Music by Jeff Klepper & Dan Frelander

שָׁלוֹם רַב עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עַמְּךָ הַנִּשְׁמָר לְעוֹלָם,  
כִּי אַתָּה הוּא מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹן לְכָל הַשָּׁלוֹם.  
וְטוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ לְבָרֵךְ אֶת-עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל  
בְּכָל-עֵת וּבְכָל-שָׁעָה בְּשָׁלוֹמְךָ.

Shalom Rav al Yisrael amcha tasim l'olam, ki atah hu Melech  
Adon l'chol hashalom. V'tov b'einecha l'vareich et amch Yisrael  
b'chol eit uv'chol shah bish'lomecha.

Grant Abundant Peace to Israel Your people forever,  
for You are the Sovereign God of all peace.  
May it be pleasing to You to bless Your people Israel  
in every season and moment with Your peace.

## "T'filat Haderech"

Music by Debbie Friedman

May we be blessed as we go on our way  
May we be guided in peace  
May we be blessed with health and joy  
May this be our blessing, Amen

May we be sheltered by the by the wings of peace  
May we be kept in safety and in love  
May grace and compassion find their way to every soul  
May this be our blessing, Amen