

# Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom – Needham, Massachusetts

January 2024

Tevet/Shevat 5784



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## On the Cover

View of planet earth from satellite camera. Generative AI  
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## Editorial Board

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To join the *Scroll* Editorial Board, please email: [scroll@tbsneedham.org](mailto:scroll@tbsneedham.org)

To contribute content, go to: [tbsneedham.org/submit](https://tbsneedham.org/submit)

## From the Editorial Board

You're in a new place and ask a fellow wanderer if there's a bagel shop nearby, hoping to find that spark that happens when meeting someone with a kindred background. Maybe they'll let you in on a good nosh or a hidden gem to visit. In this issue, you can garner that information before you wander, as fellow members share their excitement of places they've visited with a Jewish connection.

Meanwhile, we continue to hold in our hearts those in Israel, the place with the greatest Jewish connection of all.

### Do you work for a Jewish organization?

We will be featuring those among us who bring their talents to Jewish organizations. Please tell us your story. What is your role and the purpose of your work? What makes it meaningful for you? How long have you been with the organization? Do you have any special anecdotes to share? Please send your story to [scroll@tbsneedham.org](mailto:scroll@tbsneedham.org) by January 15. Word limit: 150. Photos welcome!

### Is your kugel to kvell over?

The Editorial Board will be conducting a kugel-tasting featuring kugel made by our own TBS members. If you'd like to share your baking prowess in our early-February tasting event, kindly email us at [scroll@tbsneedham.org](mailto:scroll@tbsneedham.org) by January 10. We'd love to know where your recipe is from and what it means to you or your family. Word limit: 150

And yes, the Ed Board is always looking for new members. This might just be what convinces you to join us!

*By Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board*

## Welcome New Members

Jessica and Aaron Dezube and Avery (4) and Benjamin (2)  
 Jamie and Benjamin Jacobson and Charlie (6) and Emilia (3)  
 Amanda and Evan Lank and Noa (not yet 1)  
 Gregory and Margarita Lewinter and Justin (4) and Andrew (not yet 1)  
 Emily Malkin  
 Naomi and Mark Oshry and Sadie (1)  
 Heather Sullivan and Owen (15) and Julian (13)

## Services in January

Services will be in person and via livestream for the month of January.  
Please check the TBS website and emails for livestream links.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 (25 Tevet 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 (25 Tevet 5784)

Torah: *Sh'mot* Ex. 1:1 - 6:1

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah (Front Conference Room and online)

B. Mitzvah: Guy Nevo and Connor Fernandes

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 (3 Shevat 5784)

5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 (3 Shevat 5784)

Torah: *Va-eira* Ex. 6:2 - 9:35

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah (Front Conference Room and online)

B. Mitzvah: Lilly Fletcher and Torrance Majors

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 (10 Shevat 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 (10 Shevat 5784)

Torah: *Bo* Ex. 10:1 - 13:16

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah (Front Conference Room and online)

B. Mitzvah: Natalie Friend

B. Mitzvah: Jacob Lourie

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 (17 Shevat 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

6:15 PM Om Shalom Yoga Service (Carmen Hall)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 (17 Shevat 5784)

Torah: *B'shalach* Ex. 13:17 - 17:16

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah (Front Conference Room and online)

### Please join the TBS Community for *Minyan*

- Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM in person, in the Sanctuary.
- Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM online only. Zoom links are published in the "TBS This Week" email.

## Committee Meetings in January – Stay Involved!

Committees not listed will not meet formally this month.

### Committee Name

Adult Learning  
Brotherhood Board  
Communications  
Garden Club  
Library  
Scroll Editorial Board

### Date and Time

Wed. Jan. 3, 7:45 PM  
Tue. Jan. 9, 7:15 PM  
Wed. Jan. 17, 7:15 PM  
Tue. Jan. 2, 7:15 PM  
Wed. Jan. 3, 17, 24, 31, 9:30 AM  
Tue. Jan. 30, 12:00 PM

### Email Contact for Information

adultlearning@tbsneedham.org  
brotherhood@tbsneedham.org  
communications@tbsneedham.org  
gardenclub@tbsneedham.org  
library@tbsneedham.org  
scroll@tbsneedham.org

Please check with the email contact in case of a change in date and for meeting location.





From Our Board of Trustees

# Reflections on a Complicated Year

By Wendy Gutterson, Congregational President



Heading into 2024 I, like many others, find myself reflecting on the past year. And like many of you, I suspect, it's hard to say whether it was a good year or a not-so-good year. I recognize many blessings such as good health and access to good medical care when needed. My family was also fortunate to have celebrated some wonderful life cycle events – Tzipora and Adam's marriage and welcoming a new son to our nephews, Glen and Kevin. And, of course, I have the continued joy of being part of the Temple Beth Shalom community. Serving as congregational president is an extraordinary privilege, and I cherish the opportunities for the many conversations that come with the role. As well, I feel lucky to live in the community-minded town of Needham, a town where riding toys are left at the park for many to enjoy, a town where we can count on interfaith collaboration and support. And so, I am keenly aware of the many blessings in my life.

However, despite the many positive things I can cite, it's hard to say 2023 was a good year. As always, our community has experienced difficult moments, illness and loss and the need for strength and resilience. And, of course, our dialogue and collective worry has, more recently, been focused on the fighting between Israel and Hamas. As of this writing, more hostages are being held than have been released, and concern dominates our social media posts and our conversations. And so, my reflection on 2023 is one of mixed emotions – gratitude and worry – but also a strong sense of what we, locally, can accomplish together.

Each Friday night when we come together for worship, there is a specific rhythm to the service allowing us the space and place for reflection. We take the time to welcome Shabbat, a pause in our routine. We say the *Hoda'ah*, the prayer for gratitude, and reflect on the moments in our week that made us smile. Our silent prayer is another moment to reflect on our private thoughts, perhaps our hope for the days ahead.

And for those of us looking for actionable steps to address needs in the weeks and months ahead, I want to highlight two very specific initiatives. All temple members are welcome to join the work of these groups. The Refugee Resettlement Initiative works to welcome, support, and provide resources for individuals and families settling in Needham and surrounding communities. Examples of this work include setting up apartments, providing transportation to medical appointments, and providing necessary items for families to thrive in their new homes. The Antisemitism Awareness Initiative (ASAI) is an active TBS group focusing on educational programs to recognize and support community response to antisemitism. ASAI participates in the Anti-Defamation League's Kulanu Program, teaching members to have proactive conversations beyond our community.

There are many ways to step into work that helps others during this challenging time. I invite you to join us in the new year to help make 2024 a year of blessing and peace.

L'Shalom,

Wendy

## Fighting Antisemitism

"Israel's iron fist should be paired with an outstretched hand to the Palestinian people."

"Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are internationally recognized terrorist organizations that are executing civilians and using their own denizens as human shields. Despite disinformation to the contrary, there is every indication that Israel is in accord with the law of armed conflict."

Congressman Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), Town Hall at Temple Beth Shalom, October 22, 2023.



# B. Mitzvah

## **Guy Nevo, Saturday, January 6**

**School:** Pollard Middle School

**Interests:** Guy trains boxing, likes to hang out with friends, and plays the clarinet.

**Mitzvah Project:** Guy participated in a bake sale - baking challahs and other baked goods, raising money for medical equipment for Israel.

## **Connor Fernandes, Saturday, January 6**

**School:** Pollard Middle School

**Interests:** Connor enjoys sailing, soccer, and photography. He loves spending summers on the Cape.

**Mitzvah Project:** Connor spent the summer picking up trash on the beaches and around the community of New Silver Beach in Falmouth.

## **Lilly Fletcher, Saturday, January 13**

**School:** Pollard Middle School

**Interests:** Lilly loves playing hockey and lacrosse, spending time with friends, and indulging in delicious treats from Dunks all day long.

**Mitzvah Project:** Lilly coached and mentored a younger baseball player through Needham's Challenger Baseball program, helping him to develop fun new skills.

## **Torrance Majors, Saturday, January 13**

**School:** Pollard Middle School

**Interests:** Torrance enjoys ELA and Math. She loves reading and plays on soccer and lacrosse teams.

**Mitzvah Project:** Torrance distributed door hangers during a "Walk About" to households with life-saving information about the risk posed by fentanyl.

## **Natalie Friend, Saturday, January 20**

**School:** Pollard Middle School

**Interests:** Natalie enjoys soccer and basketball. She loves her friends, dogs, and going to the beaches in Nantucket.

**Mitzvah Project:** Natalie's mitzvah project involved collecting materials for animals in need at the Animal Rescue League of Boston in Dedham.

## **Jacob Lourie, Saturday, January 20**

**School:** Brown Middle School

**Interests:** Jacob loves playing basketball and soccer. He loves the Celtics and going to games. Jacob also loves his cat Yoda.

**Mitzvah Project:** Jacob shared his love of sports by helping children with different abilities play soccer and basketball with Athletes Unlimited in Newton.

*To participate in B. Mitzvah services,  
join us in person in the Sanctuary, or check your Shabbat email for Vimeo links.*



# Shabbat Reimagined



Experience Shabbat in exciting and reimagined ways that provide even more opportunity for engagement, connection, celebration and joy with our vibrant TBS community!

For registration and more information, visit [tbsneedham.org/shabbat](https://tbsneedham.org/shabbat).



## Community Dinners

Enjoy delicious food and community connection each month. **Free and open to all members.**

*Fridays • 7:30pm following Erev Shabbat Services*

**September 29** | Erev Sukkot "Etrog" Dinner

**October 27** | NY Deli-Style Menu

**November 17** | Scholar-in-Residence

**December 8** | Chanukah Celebration

**January 26** | Sisterhood Honored by the Archives Committee

**February 23**

**March 8**

**April 12** | ConNEXTionsPLUS

**May 3** | Celebrating Community & The Perlman Family



## Tot Shabbat

Experience Shabbat designed for Families with Young Children (ages 0-5) and enjoy music, snacks, and connecting with other families.

*Fridays • 5:15pm Snack; 5:30pm Tot Shabbat Services*

**October 20**

**November 10**

**December 8**

**January 12** | Families with Young Children Dinner

**February 9** | Families with Young Children Dinner

**March 8**

**April 26**

**May 17**



## Om Shalom Yoga

Engage in spiritual, healthy movement as part of a Shabbat worship service.

*Fridays • 6:15pm*

**September 29**

**October 27**

**November 10**

**December 15**

**January 26**

**February 23**

**March 8**

**April 12**

**May 17**



## Shabbat Hikes

Delight in beautiful guided hikes including personal reflection, community connection, and the opportunity to experience peaceful moments in nature.

*Saturdays • 11am Community Hike; 2pm Family Hike*

**October 14** | Community Hike & Family Hike

**November 11** | Community Hike & Family Hike

**December 19** | Family Hike

**January 13** | Family Hike

**February 10** | Family Hike

**March 9** | Family Hike

**April 13** | Family Hike

**May 11** | Family Hike



## Friday Night Lights & Family Dinners

Celebrate among friends and family with festive services designed to be experienced by our entire TBS community and particularly enjoyed by school-age children (K-6) and their families.

*Fridays • 5:30pm Family Dinners; 6:15pm Services*

**December 1**

**January 5**

**February 2** | Refugee Shabbat

**March 1**

**April 5**

**May 10**



## Shabbat Morning Worship

Gather on Shabbat mornings for services led by members of our community, followed by Torah Study centering around lively group discussion and thoughtful conversation with clergy.

*Saturdays • 8:30-9am Services; 9-10am Torah Study*



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

Erev Shabbat Services are held every Friday evening at 6:15pm, with light nosh before and sweet Oneg after.

# January Highlights

## Beth Shalom Garden Club's Selecting Sustainable Roses

**Tuesday, January 9, 7:15 PM, TBS**

Beth Shalom Garden Club presents Mike and Angela Chute from RoseSolutions, a landscape consulting company, who will show us how to choose and grow hearty, healthy, and disease resistant roses in our New England gardens. They have been growing roses for over 25 years in Rhode Island and have published books, an internet journal, and a website: [RoseSolutions.net](http://RoseSolutions.net). January is a perfect time to start planning on selecting and growing roses. Come and join us. Members are free. First time guests are free.

Contact: [gardenclub@tbsneedham.org](mailto:gardenclub@tbsneedham.org)



## Follow-up Discussion Group: *Constantine's Sword* The Historical Origins of Antisemitism

**Wednesday, January 10, 7:15-8:45 PM, TBS**

As a follow-up to our event in December, we will be discussing the major elements of James Carroll's presentation and book *Constantine's Sword: The History of the Church and the Jews*, as well as exploring observations that came up during the presentation. Whether you have read the book or not — perhaps you would just like to continue your thoughts or have new thoughts to share — then join us! Led by TBS Adult Learning and the Antisemitism Awareness Initiative and sponsored by the Michael Sockol Jewish Writer's Fund. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact: [adultlearning@tbsneedham.org](mailto:adultlearning@tbsneedham.org)



## Rosh Chodesh

**Wednesday, January 10, 10:00-11:00 AM, TBS**

Please join TBS Sisterhood for our Rosh Chodesh celebration with Rabbi Elyse. Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a special holiday for women and a time for women to gather. We will celebrate the new moon and the new month.

Register: [t-b-s.me/roshchodesh](http://t-b-s.me/roshchodesh)

Contact: Sandy Cisternelli at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)

## ConNEXTions Flight Club

**Sunday, January 21, 5:00-7:00 PM, Flight Club  
60 Seaport Blvd Suite 215, Boston, MA 02210**

ConNEXTions invites you to our winter event at Flight Club - Social Darts! Join us for a fun evening of games, friends, and food in Boston's Seaport. The fee includes dart games and delicious food. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Temple Beth Shalom is subsidizing the cost of this event to reduce the price for all. If you require additional financial assistance in order to participate, please be in touch with Rabbi Todd at [tmarkley@tbsneedham.org](mailto:tmarkley@tbsneedham.org).

Register: [t-b-s.me/flightclub](http://t-b-s.me/flightclub)

Deadline: 01/10/2024

Contact: Craig Lustig and Lori Shaer at [connexions@tbsneedham.org](mailto:connexions@tbsneedham.org)

Cost: \$25.00



# January Highlights continued...

## Sisterhood Shabbat and Dinner

**Friday, January 26, 6:15-9:00 PM, TBS**

Join us for our next Community Dinner, sponsored by Member Relations in partnership with Sisterhood, following Friday evening Shabbat services. All are welcome to enjoy a delicious meal and take the time to honor Sisterhood at Temple Beth Shalom. It will be an opportunity to relax and connect with friends, old and new, at our monthly gathering. Free for members.

Register: [t-b-s.me/communitydinner](https://t-b-s.me/communitydinner)

Deadline: 01/19/2024

Contact: Sisterhood at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)

## Sisterhood Retreat

**Saturday, January 27, 10:00 AM-8:00 PM, TBS**

Sisterhood invites you to a one-day getaway with no travel required! Stay for the entire day or just drop in as you are available. Highlights include Shabbat services, fun social action and crafting activities, games and lunch with friends, movement and relaxation breaks, happy hour signature cocktails, Havdalah, dinner, and more. Plus exciting optional events on Friday evening and Sunday morning.

Please note on the form if you are interested in chanting or reading Torah or doing an English reading during Shabbat services at the retreat? No experience necessary – you will receive any help needed!

Register: [t-b-s.me/sisterhoodretreat](https://t-b-s.me/sisterhoodretreat)

Deadline: 01/20/2024

Contact: Marsha Moller at [sisterhoodretreat@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhoodretreat@tbsneedham.org)

Cost: \$36.00

## Recurring Events

### Israeli Dancing

**Mondays, January 8, 22, 29, 7:00-8:30 PM, TBS**

Join Emily Perlman for a wonderful Israeli dance experience. Israeli dance is a great way to engage the culture of Israel and the Jewish people through music and movement. This is an intermediate level class for those who have some Israeli dance experience. Those who are willing to learn by watching others are also encouraged to attend.

Contact: Emily Perlman at [eperlman@tbsneedham.org](mailto:eperlman@tbsneedham.org)

Cost: \$5.00, which is paid when you attend

### Sisterhood Mah Jongg

**Thursdays, January 4, February 1, March 7, 7:15-9:15 PM, TBS**

Join other sisterhood members on the first Thursday of the month for Mah Jongg. New and seasoned players are welcome!

Register: [t-b-s.me/mahjongg](https://t-b-s.me/mahjongg)

Contact: Holli Bassin and Abby Harmon at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)





## Pre-Shabbat Yoga

### Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM, TBS

Step into winter with strength, balance, and alignment through the practice of yoga. Join experienced yoga teacher Stephanie Javaheri for a weekly mindful yoga “work in” to cultivate awareness, physically and mentally. Feel better in your body and your mind. Slow physical movement, breathwork, and meditation blend together in this 1-hour class.

Drop-in at TBS (no registration required)

Join online: [t-b-s.me/preshabbatyoga](https://t-b-s.me/preshabbatyoga)

Contact: Stephanie Javaheri at [yoga@tbsneedham.org](mailto:yoga@tbsneedham.org)



## Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

### Saturdays, 9:15-10:15 AM, TBS or online

Led by Rabbi Bob Orkand, each Saturday we will focus on a single Jewish moral or ethical value found in that week's *parshah* (Torah portion). These will include, but not be limited to: Justice, Compassion, Environmental Ethics, and Business Ethics. A variety of rabbinic sources will enrich our exploration as we seek to apply each week's value to our lives today.

Drop-in at TBS (no registration required)

Join online: [t-b-s.me/findingvalues](https://t-b-s.me/findingvalues)

Contact: Jessica Baim at [jbaim@tbsneedham.org](mailto:jbaim@tbsneedham.org)



## Panim el Panim/Face to Face - A Special Discussion Series with Israelis

### Sundays, January 7, February 4, March 10, 12:00-1:00 PM, Online

For many years, Congregation Mevasseret Zion (CMZ), a progressive community outside Jerusalem, has been Temple Beth Shalom's “sister congregation.” When this program was originally created, the ongoing topic for conversation was to be the Israeli judicial reform proposals. With the current crisis in Israel, we will now be supporting our Israeli partners as they struggle during war. Each month, we will gather via Zoom in a conversation facilitated by Rabbi Perlman and Rabbi Alona Nir Keren of CMZ.

Register: [t-b-s.me/panim](https://t-b-s.me/panim)

Contact: Rabbi Jay at [jperlman@tbsneedham.org](mailto:jperlman@tbsneedham.org)

## Moms Supporting Moms

### Thursdays, January 11, February 8, March 14, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Is your child struggling with mental health issues? Come and join this confidential group with other TBS women whose children are at various stages of their mental health journey. Share and receive support from moms who have been where you are or who are there right now. Dealing with a child's mental health can be a lonely and scary place for parents, and we want you to feel that you are not alone!!!

Contact: Jackie Waller, Liz Webb Green, or Michelle Hoffman at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)



# Recurring Events continued...

## Sisterhood Canasta

**Thursdays, January 18, February 15, March 21, 7:15-9:15 PM, TBS**

Join other Sisterhood members on the third Thursday of the month for Canasta. Seasoned players are welcome!

Register: [t-b-s.me/canasta](http://t-b-s.me/canasta)

Contact: Holli Bassin or Abby Harmon at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)

## Bag Lunch and Breakfast Food Drive-through Collection for Homeless Shelters

**Friday, January 19, February 9, March 15, 9:15-9:45 AM, Parking Lot (Front)**

We look forward to your participation as we donate bag lunches and breakfast foods to homeless shelters in the Father Bill's network of shelters in Brockton. This is a great project to do individually or as a family!

Participate in this mitzvah every month and help us provide 100 bagged lunches and lots of breakfast foods needed to help feed guests at these homeless shelters!

Donate any of the following: bag lunches, bottles of water, juice boxes, condiments, breakfast items including muffins, individual-size cereal boxes, yogurts, fruit cups, or ground coffee.

Between 9:15 and 9:45AM, we will be ready to unload your items from your car as you drive up.

Can't make it to the collection? No problem! Non-perishable donations may be dropped at a Needham address prior to the collection day by emailing us and signing up for your donation. Thank you for helping to feed the stranger.

Register: [t-b-s.me/baglunch](http://t-b-s.me/baglunch)

Contact: [socialaction@tbsneedham.org](mailto:socialaction@tbsneedham.org)



## Om Shalom Yoga Service

**Friday, January 26, 6:15-7:30 PM, TBS**

Om Shalom Yoga Shabbat creates a spiritual space that centralizes healthy movement and breathwork as part of a Shabbat worship service. The practice includes Shabbat prayers, music, and ceremony woven together into a movement-practice that makes for a unique experience of worship. Ages 12 and above. All physical abilities are welcome. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Om Shalom Yoga will run concurrently with our regular Shabbat services. Both services will conclude at approximately the same time and enjoy oneg together.

Register: [t-b-s.me/omshalom](http://t-b-s.me/omshalom)

Contact: Jessica Baim at [jbaim@tbsneedham.org](mailto:jbaim@tbsneedham.org)



# Save the Date

## Refugee Shabbat

**Friday, February 2, 6:15-7:30 PM, TBS**

In the wake of the crisis unfolding in Israel, it feels even more important to invite you to join TBS, HIAS, and congregations across the country for our Sixth Annual Refugee Shabbat.

Refugee Shabbat is our opportunity to recognize the profound impact of the global Jewish movement working on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people. Even as we grapple with the myriad challenges of this moment, it is important to take time to catch our breath, reflect on our accomplishments, and gather our energy for the work that lies ahead.

Contact: Deena Mesnick Siegel at [tzedek@tbsneedham.org](mailto:tzedek@tbsneedham.org)

## Novels at Night

**Wednesday, February 7, 7:30-9:30 PM, Outside of Temple**

Cozy up with a good book this winter and join TBS Sisterhood for our second installment of Novels at Night. Please bring your thoughts, opinions, questions and insights about the book, *Mr. Perfect on Paper*, by Jean Meltzer. If you have never made it to Novels at Night, don't let that dissuade you from joining us. Each time we have new and returning attendees.

Register: [t-b-s.me/NovelsatNight](https://t-b-s.me/NovelsatNight)

Contact: Sarah Fleckner & Kate Basch at [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)

## TBS Hosts GBIO Campaign for Housing Justice In-District-Meeting with Legislators

**Tuesday, February 13, 7:15-8:45 PM, TBS**

Senator Becca Rausch and Representative Denise Garlick are coming to Temple Beth Shalom! If you attended the vigil for Israel and heard them speak, you know that they are powerful supporters of issues important to us. If you did not attend, these are our legislators and this In-District-Meeting (IDM) presents a significant opportunity for us, their constituents, to demonstrate our deep concern for Housing Justice.



TBS' social justice theme for the year is Housing Justice. In collaboration with The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), our primary objective is to have Senator Rausch and Representative Garlick publicly commit to support budget increases and bills related to housing justice and mental health by the conclusion of the legislative session in July 2024. We want a clear record of this commitment to hold them accountable.

During the meeting, we will share personal stories from public housing residents, returning citizens, and others which illustrate how these issues affect us and our communities. We will advocate for specific systemic or policy changes that will tangibly enhance our lives and promote justice. Our focused approach allows us to harness our collective influence for maximum impact.

Register: [t-b-s.me/gbioidmrausch](https://t-b-s.me/gbioidmrausch)

Contact: Magda Schmalz at [tzedek@tbsneedham.org](mailto:tzedek@tbsneedham.org)

## High Tea at Vintage Tea & Cake

**Sunday, March 3, 2:00-4:00 PM, Outside of Temple**

Join Sisterhood for a traditional high tea at the Belmont Tea Room - Vintage Tea & Cake Co. Space is limited to 25 people.

Register: [t-b-s.me/hightea](https://t-b-s.me/hightea)

Deadline: 02/25/2024

Contact: [sisterhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sisterhood@tbsneedham.org)

Cost: \$40.00



# Mirrors, Windows, and Doors: Teaching Social Justice Through Children's Picture Books

By Ellen Dietrick

The ancient command “*Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof!* Justice, justice shall you seek!” from the book of Deuteronomy reminds us to continue on the path of reaching a more just society where there are equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities for all. In an increasingly diverse and interconnected world, early lessons in social justice are crucial for shaping the next generation of compassionate and socially aware citizens. Talking about her book *Social Justice Parenting: How to Raise Compassionate, Anti-Racist, Justice-Minded Kids in an Unjust World*, Traci Baxley asks, “What seeds do we plant as they are growing up so they are people who stand up for others and who are more compassionate and kind as they go on in their lives?” At TBS Children’s Center, we approach teaching social justice through the use of children’s picture books, starting as early as age one. Our approach is guided by the metaphor of mirrors, windows, and doors, which allows young children to explore their own identities, gain insight into the lives of others, and develop empathy through literature.



## Mirrors: Reflecting Children’s Lives

Picture books serve as mirrors when they allow young readers to see themselves, their experiences, and their identities reflected in the stories. We believe that this aspect of literature is crucial for children’s development as it helps them build a strong sense of self-worth and identity. These books invite children to connect with experiences in their own lives and build meaningful connections. We carefully select books that feature diverse characters, backgrounds, and experiences, ensuring that every child can find a character they can relate to. This reflection empowers children to feel seen and valued, fostering a sense of belonging and self-acceptance.

## Windows: Gaining Perspective on Diverse Lives

Books also act as windows, offering children a view into lives and stories that are different from their own. These windows provide opportunities for children to learn about the rich tapestry of human experiences and cultures that make up our world. These books might feature food from another country, a trip to the rainforest or to space, or someone who speaks a different language. By exposing our young learners to diverse characters and settings, we aim to broaden their horizons, challenge stereotypes, and promote a sense of curiosity about the world beyond their own experiences.





We know that messages young children absorb from books and other media heavily influence their ideas about themselves and others. These messages come from both illustrations and text. We prioritize picture books that explore various social justice themes, such as gender equality, racial diversity, environmental stewardship, and inclusion. Through these windows into different lives, children gain an appreciation for the beauty of diversity and learn to respect and value differences.

## Doors: Empathy and an Invitation to Act

Perhaps the most profound aspect of our approach is the use of picture books as doors. Using books as doors is symbolic for teaching young children to stand up for others or inspiring them to enter other people's worlds through activism, allyship, or volunteering. When children engage with stories at this level, they are not just passive observers but active participants in the narratives. They feel transported into the world of the story and, thus, develop empathy for the characters. This empathic connection allows children to better understand the feelings and experiences of others, fostering compassion and a sense of justice.

To facilitate this empathic connection, our educators employ strategies such as open-ended discussions, role-playing, and creative activities related to the stories. As children learn to identify with characters who may be facing challenges or injustices, they are encouraged to imagine solutions and ways to make the world a fairer place. These books spark new conversations, enabling us to explore topics we might not otherwise encounter in daily life. With this as a basis, we invite children to make a difference.

By providing mirrors for self-reflection, windows for understanding diversity, and doors for empathy and action, we empower our young learners to become socially conscious, empathetic, and responsible individuals. As we continue to use the transformative power of literature to teach these important values, we are confident that our preschoolers will grow up to be advocates for a more just and equitable society.

We invite you to join us! If you have a young child in your life, here are a few favorite books, all of which invite children to step through the door and into an act of their own social justice:

- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- *Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle and Jill McElmurry
- *Every Little Thing* by Cedella Marley, Bob Marley, Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev and Taeun Yoo
- *Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race* by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli
- *Change Starts with Us*, *Love Makes a Family*, and *Kindness Makes Us Strong*, all by Sophie Beer
- *Courageous People Who Changed the World* by Heidi Poelman and Kyle Kershner



# Jewish Travel Experiences

*We asked TBS members about Jewish experiences they've had in their travels. Whether you live vicariously or are fortunate enough to incorporate these ideas into your own travel plans, we hope you find them inspirational!*

## Robert Andrews

Los Angeles, California

A trip to Los Angeles is not complete without a stop to Canter's Deli, Open 24/7. It's like stepping back in time to a golden age of Jewish-American Ashkenazi cuisine! On our recent trip, I enjoyed the matzo ball soup, while one of my sons had the matzo brei. Pastrami on rye was also enjoyed but consumed too quickly to take a photo. We finished with black and white cookies and hamantaschen - on the house! Indie Rock and Israeli-American band Haim got their start playing in the back room at this amazing gem of a restaurant!

## Debby and Alan Beck

Orlando, Florida

With the ongoing tragedy in Israel so close at hand, we have found it important to embrace meaningful ways to keep affirming our Jewish identity. On your next trip to Florida, a hidden gem that will do just this is the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Educational Center in Maitland, only nine miles from Orlando.

Founded in 1981, the center is home to "an organization dedicated to combating antisemitism, racism, and prejudice with the ultimate goal of developing a moral and just community through its extensive outreach of educational and cultural programs" [holocaustedu.org](http://holocaustedu.org).



On our recent visit with family who live nearby, we had an excellent tour conducted by a knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer, who showcased multiple compelling exhibits of Holocaust visual art and artifacts and engaged us in thoughtful discussion. Included were multimedia presentations highlighting personal stories of individuals and families, narratives of Holocaust historical events, a visual view of Anne Frank's life in the secret annex where her family hid, and the continuing testimony of survivors and those who courageously combatted antisemitism then and now. Our reactions to these displays were both heart wrenching and deeply inspiring.

When you go, take your time, and allow 2 - 3 hours to visit, integrate, and reflect upon your experience. Although walk-in attendance is possible, make a reservation to ensure there will be ticket availability when you want to go.





## Joni Burstein

Azerbaijan & Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim country, embracing all peoples and proud of its Jewish influence. Two hours outside of its capital live the “Mountain Jews.” We pictured something between goats and a 19th century village. What we found was a small community of Jews who were modern and would probably be the equivalent



of reform or conservative by American standards. Because there were two funerals the day we visited, we met only a handful of people, who showed us the synagogue. It was relatively Jewish while showing the influence of its surroundings: we were asked to remove our shoes before entering the sanctuary, and the floor was covered with rugs. Most of the Mountain Jews stay in their community, only occasionally moving into the capital of Baku or bringing someone from Baku for marriage.

In Baku, the tour guide of renown is a Jewish Azerbaijani man named Fuad. He studied here in the States and devotes his energies to giving some of the most animated and interesting tours we’ve ever experienced. Beyond the Jewish influence, Baku stands on its own as a place of architectural magnificence and an interesting area to visit. As a Jewish couple from Sydney, Australia said to us in the elevator of our hotel, “Who needs Europe when you can come to Baku?”

A most memorable moment was visiting the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam with my family and in-laws. My in-laws, both Holocaust survivors, were 90 years old at the time. Their age didn’t prevent them from climbing all the way to see the topmost level of the House. If they could do that at 90, I remember thinking, what able-bodied person has any excuse in life not to do, to explore, and to remember?

## Jill Finkelstein

Portland, Maine

I recently visited the Maine Jewish Museum in Portland, Maine, and I would encourage you to visit, as this is a real treasure! The Museum is housed in the 100-year-old restored Etz Chaim Synagogue. There is a beautiful sanctuary and gardens. Several permanent collections include a photo exhibition of Maine Holocaust survivors and their stories, a display of the history of Maine Jews, and a video describing the history of Maine Jewish summer camps.

There are many current and ongoing programs, not just focused on Maine, such as art exhibits, film festivals, concerts and panel discussions. They even have a Kids’ Corner for arts and crafts. [mainejewishmuseum.org](http://mainejewishmuseum.org).





# Jewish Travel Experiences continued...

Jeffrey Kaufman

Spain

Seven members of the TBS community participated in a tour of Spain with the Orange County Community Scholars Program. Spain is a wonderful place to travel, with good food and many sites with a connection to its Jewish past. Five hundred years after the expulsion, there is a community of around 45,000 Jews, mainly in large cities. During the trip, we celebrated Friday night services with communities in Barcelona and Madrid. The photo is taken at the Madrid cultural center, where the Jewish community meets.

There is interesting history to be seen in Barcelona, Girona, and Toledo. Shadows of the Jewish presence are found in Seville, Granada, Cordoba, a cemetery in Lucena, and a mikvah in Besalu.



Joe Marcus

Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Bulgaria; Budapest, Hungary; Berlin, Germany; & Barcelona, Spain

When traveling, with few exceptions, I do not seek out Jewish touchstones, but when encountered, I feel drawn to them and comfortable. It is unfortunate that world events are such that places I have been blessed to explore are not as accessible as they were. Here are a few I had the chance to visit.



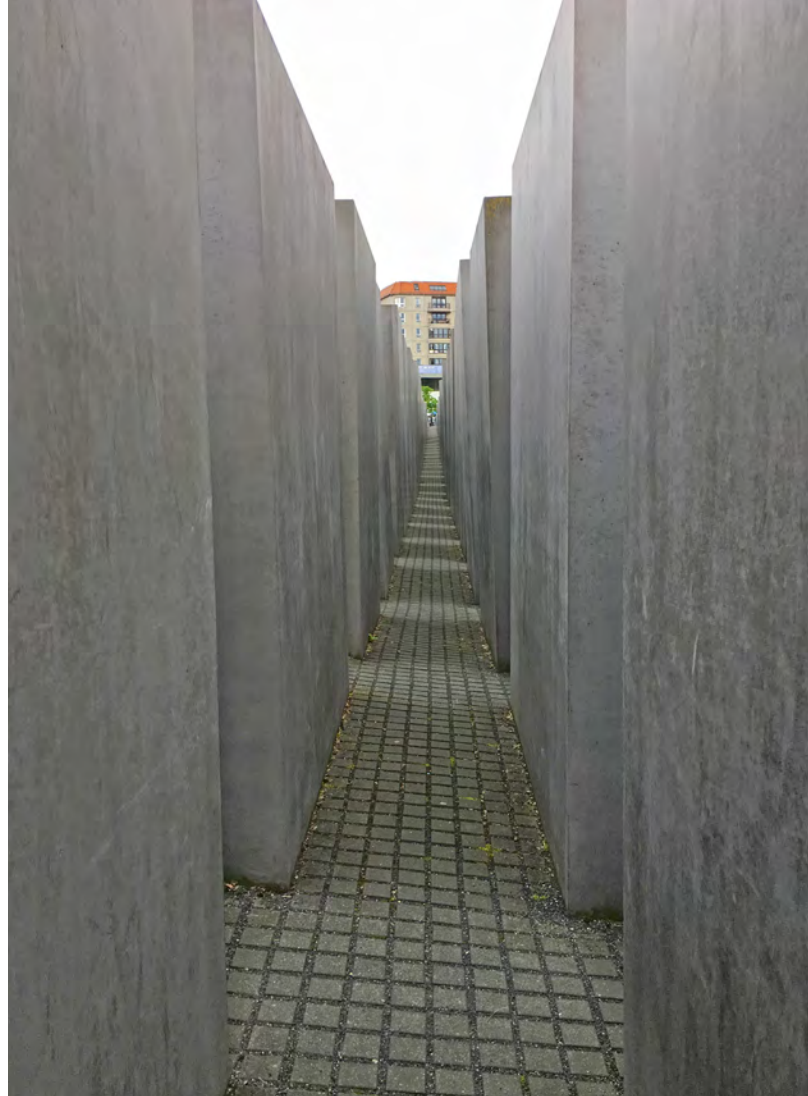
In Amsterdam, in addition to the Anne Frank House, I was able to explore the Portuguese Synagogue dating from the 1600s and the Reform Jewish Congregation's avant-garde edifice.

In Vidin, Bulgaria, a walking tour of the town passed by a derelict synagogue. The tour guide explained that when a religious structure was appropriated by the state, it was converted to an alternate use. Common choices included warehouse, stable, or shooting gallery. The Vidin Synagogue, the second largest in Bulgaria, built in 1894, was used as a warehouse.

Budapest had the Dohány Street ("Tobacco Road") Synagogue that was restored to its pre-war glory with a modest grant from the Hungarian Government and a lot of contributions from US Jews (Estee Lauder and Tony Curtis were major benefactors). The Central Synagogue on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan is a copy of the building. On the grounds of the Dohány Street Synagogue is a Holocaust Memorial. A few blocks away, the Rumbach synagogue is being transformed back from a house of wares to a house of worship. Near Parliament, along the river, sculpted bronze shoes stand as a memorial to victims of countless executions on the Pest bank of the Danube.



Berlin's Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe has a large sculpture of various concrete blocks constructed in part of the area, near the Brandenburg Gate, that was "no man's land" when the Berlin wall separated East and West Berlin. Concrete blocks impose cold and isolating walks; below the concrete blocks is a museum to honor the murdered Jews. It is a unique design and managed by the education department. In all honesty, I had a difficult time but the experience was worth it. As a footnote, the museum is close to where the Third Reich high-command bunker was



located. Shortly after the war, what remained of the bunker was filled with concrete to make it impossible to be reused for any purpose.

In Barcelona, near the Gaudi Church, is the Greater Synagogue of Barcelona, which dates back to Roman times. It was closed during the Spanish Inquisition and did not reopen until 1987, forcing Truro in Newport, RI, out of the Guinness World Records.

## Susan Sloane

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Our daughter and her family live outside Philadelphia, so we've had reason to visit the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History. The museum building is very attractive, and its permanent collection is well worth seeing. Plus, temporary exhibits often focus on contemporary issues and events. (My favorite featured the evolution of Jewish summer camps.) Open currently on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, the museum does not charge admission at this time. The cherry on top: the New York *Jewish Week* newspaper named the Weitzman gift shop "one of the best-curated museum stores around." [theweitzman.org](http://theweitzman.org)



# Jewish Travel Experiences continued...



## Jenny Small

Montreal, Canada

In July 2023, my husband, Josh, and I took a vacation in Montreal. Over 90,000 Jews live in Montreal, and we learned all about the city's cultural history during a tour called Iconic Dishes: Jewish Montreal, The Original Tour! The tour was led by Round Table Food Tours [roundtablefoodtours.com/tour/jewish-montreal-original-tour](https://roundtablefoodtours.com/tour/jewish-montreal-original-tour). The half-day walking tour made 10 total stops. We got the chance to taste foods at competitor delis (Lester's vs. Schwartz's), bagel shops (Fairmount vs. St-Viateur, which is in my picture), and pastry shops (Cheskie vs. Hof Kelsten); plus we enjoyed falafel at Falafel Yoni, ice cream at Ripples, kosher fortune cookies, and shots of Crown Royal in front of Leonard Cohen's house. All of these businesses are owned and/or run by Jews. Along the way, we bonded with other Jewish tourists from around North America and learned so much from our amazing tour guide. We highly recommend Round Table Food Tours!

## Ed and Janet Zaval

Boston, Massachusetts

We recently had the pleasure of “discovering” the Vilna Shul. Surrounded by narrow gaslit streets and the brick sidewalks of Beacon Hill, this synagogue was built in 1919 as an Orthodox congregation by immigrants primarily from Vilna, Lithuania. At that time, it was one of dozens of immigrant synagogues in the neighborhood, but by the 1980s, the Jewish community had almost entirely left the area and the building was virtually abandoned. After much debate, and following years of decline, it was decided to restore the synagogue as a Jewish heritage and cultural center. Responding to a new, growing migration of Jewish residents who prefer to live downtown, the Vilna is now adding religious services for major holidays, young-family Shabbats, and community programming. We were awed by the interior spaces, the simple furnishings, and photographs reflecting a long lost era, as well as its passionate commitment to the future. 🕍





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Emily Perlman for her help in  
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David L. Loeser  
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Frank Lowenstein  
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on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Mildred "Millie" Cohen

Brett and Janie Lubarsky, and Jake  
on the passing of their grandfather and great-grandfather, L. Arnold Goralnick

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on the passing of their father and grandfather, Daniel Levitt

Judy Belgrade, Ari and Shira, Evan and Christina, and Daniel and Rebecca  
Joaquim, Keila, Gili, Nava, Liora, and Asa  
on the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Peter Reeves

Michael and Julie Bailit, and Rachel Bailit  
David and Eli  
on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Margery Bailit

Matt and Emily Robinson, Shira and Ava  
on the passing of their stepmother and grandmother, Marcia Robinson

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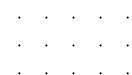


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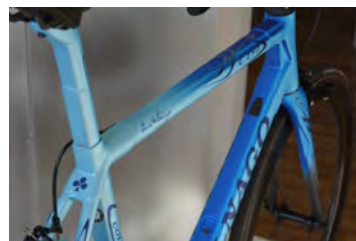
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Rabbi Jay Perlman & Rabbi Todd Markley  
Rabbi Elyse Pincus Abrahams  
Cantor DJ Fortine  
Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, Rabbi Emeritus  
Wendy Gutterson, President



## TBS Social Action Celebrates YOUR Giving throughout 2023!

**18**

Volunteers created Jared Boxes for pediatric patients at the Boston Medical Center

**39**

Bags of Clothing donated to Cradles to Crayons;  
20 Volunteers worked a shift at the Giving Factory

**33**

Towels donated to Welcome Home

**1000**

Bag Lunches provided to Father Bill's Homeless Shelters

**33**

Apple Pies Baked during the Thanksgiving Apple Pie Bake

**3609**

Diapers collected for Beantown Diaper Bank

**647**

Items donated by 106 members to Immigrant Families in Need through our WATCH program

**350+**

New Hygiene items collected through two Drives for Hope & Comfort

**48**

Items purchased by 16 members to create Valentine's Day Baskets for Moms in the Family Promise Metrowest's Shelter

**Join us for a Hands-On Project and Open Meeting  
February 4th, 7pm at TBS!**

Contact us at [Socialaction@tbsneedham.org](mailto:Socialaction@tbsneedham.org).