

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom - Needham, Massachusetts

November 2016

Cheshvan 5777



Outdoor Learning

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From the Editorial Board

Choosing to Lead

Welcome to the November edition of the Scroll. In this “Election Issue” we focus on leadership - Temple leadership - and what it means to our community.

Leadership takes on many forms and we celebrate the leaders amongst us that bring so many talents and skills that make TBS so great. Our leaders allow us to live up to our full potential and bring our community together for many great celebrations, rituals, and experiences.

Being a leader at TBS is something we all have an opportunity to do. Your leadership can be in big and small ways. There are many ways to step in and get started.

As usual this issue would not have been possible without the tremendous effort of many people. This includes all of our contributors, writers and editors. In particular, the Editorial Board would also like to thank Tiziana Getz at TBS for her hard work printing, collating and delivering the Scroll each month to the post office. Tiziana lovingly brings the Scroll through its final steps and we are so grateful for her efforts.

Have a great November!

- The Editorial Board



From the Clergy

Rediscovering Our Blessings

By Rabbi Jay Perlman



Our November edition of the Scroll arrives at our homes at the midway point between two holidays of gratitude: the Jewish festival of Sukkot and the American festival of Thanksgiving. Rabbinic wisdom emphasizes the importance of nurturing a spirit of personal gratitude. To be grateful is to open one's eye to what one already has, rather than looking towards what one desires. To be grateful is to feel a measure of fullness, rather than longing. To be grateful is to acknowledge blessings possessed, and to then rededicate oneself to ensuring that those who do not possess such bounty (food, shelter, education, companionship) will do so through our efforts.

Our Sages teach that gratitude is an essential ingredient to spiritually balanced and perspective-oriented living. Celebrating what one has is a source of strength. A story...

Itzhak Perlman walks on stage with braces on both legs, on two crutches. He takes his seat, and unhinges the clasps on his legs. Tucking one leg back, extending the other, he lays down his crutches, placing the violin under his chin.

On one occasion one of his violin strings broke. The audience grew silent. The violinist did not leave the stage. Signaling the maestro, the violinist played with intensity on only three strings.

With three strings he modulated, changed, and recomposed the piece in his head. He re-tuned the strings to get different sounds – tuning them upward and downward. The audience cheered in delight, applauding their appreciation.

Asked how he had accomplished this feat, the violinist answered: "It is my task to make music with what remains."

May these days dedicated to thanks inspire us.....strengthen us.....and deepen our will to bring blessing to those around us.

Emily, Liana, and Jonah join me in wishing you and those that you love a joyful season!

NOVEMBER 2016

SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 (4 CHESHVAN 5777)

6:15 PM — Tot Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)
7:15 PM — Contemplative Shabbat Service (Beit Midrash)
7:15 PM — Simchat Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 (4 CHESHVAN 5777)

Torah: Noach, Gen. 6:9 — 11:32
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah (Conference Room)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
Bar Mitzvah: Miles Ziskin

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (11 CHESHVAN 5777)

7:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 (11 CHESHVAN 5777)

Torah: Lech L'cha, Gen. 12:1 — 17:27
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah (Conference Room)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
B'not Mitzvah: Estelle Feinberg and Julia Hoffman

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 (18 CHESHVAN 5777)

6:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 (18 CHESHVAN 5777)

Torah: Vayera, Gen. 18:1 — 22:24
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah (Conference Room)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
B'nei Mitzvah: Lucy Katcher and David Van Dam

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 (25 CHESHVAN 5777)

6:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 (25 CHESHVAN 5777)

Shabbat Chayeis Sarah, Gen. 23:1 — 25:18
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah (Conference Room)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
Bat Mitzvah: Hannah Fleckner

Please join the TBS community for

Minyan

Monday and Thursday at 7:00 AM
Sunday through Thursday at 6:45 PM
at 670 Highland Avenue

From Our Leadership

A Guide to Leadership at Temple Beth Shalom

By Bernice Sue Behar, President



One of the features of our new building is a beautiful conference room, equipped with modern technology and a table that is designed to seat 18 people. The windows of this room sit alongside the parking lot, affording a view of all who stream past as they enter the building. Here the TBS Board of Trustees (Board) now holds its meetings. During our recent meeting, I reflected on whether the people walking past the window wondered what we were doing around that table. I have also answered questions periodically about how decisions are made at TBS. This leads me to offer some words about the Temple's leadership structure.

The Board

The Board is a leadership body of 18 members who are elected by the congregation at each year's annual meeting. Terms are staggered so that there is continuity from year to year. The Board is comprised of a President, an Executive Vice President, seven Vice Presidents, eight Trustees, and a Secretary. One of the Vice Presidents is also our Treasurer. We are joined by several ex-officio members (people with particular expertise who offer their guidance but do not vote), and we are also fortunate to have our clergy at the table to offer their wisdom, although they also do not cast votes.

The Vice Presidents and Committees

Each Vice President focuses on a particular area of Temple life: Finance, Administration, Religious and Cultural Practices, Learning (K-12), Early Childhood Learning, Tikkun Olam, and Caring Community. We are blessed that many people in our community get involved in activities in the Temple that are organized by a variety of committees such as Chesed, Social Action, Communications, or the Finance Committee. We also have what are called "arms of the Temple," and these include Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and Garden Club. One of the main responsibilities of the Vice Presidents is to support the activities of the committees and arms in their particular areas. Trustees are partnered with the Vice Presidents and also support the committees.

The Leadership Council

Another leadership group at TBS is the Leadership Council. This larger group is comprised of all Board members, all committee chairs, and all past-Presidents. The Leadership Council meets four or five times a year and offers members the opportunity to share information and to discuss issues regarding their sphere of Temple life.

Meeting Monthly to Set Policy and Priorities

The Board meets at least monthly to set policies, determine spending priorities, and guide decision-making in all aspects of Temple Life. When our congregation undertakes a major initiative, such as transforming our learning program as we did several years ago when we created Mayim, the Board reviews all the necessary research and then votes on those undertakings. Importantly, the Temple's Finance Committee works closely with the Board to develop a budget each year. The Board then votes on whether to recommend this budget, and if recommended it is brought to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting in June.

Setting Leadership Goals

Each year in the summer and into the early fall, the Board meets and discusses leadership goals for the coming year. These are the cornerstones of our work for the year. Not surprisingly, over this past year most of our goals related to assuring the operation and financial health of our community throughout the Mikdash building project. Our goals for the coming year are still being finalized and I look forward to sharing them in the future.

I have now been involved in leadership as a Board member at TBS for more than nine years. During these years I have enjoyed being part of the thoughtful conversations around the Board table, and I have admired the tremendous dedication and the great spirit of my fellow Board members!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TBS Member Business Directory

Did you know that Temple Beth Shalom has an online business directory that lists businesses owned and managed by our members? If you would like to have your business listed or look for businesses in our free online directory, please visit <http://directory.tbsneedham.org/tbsbusiness-dir/dir.html>. Remember to hit next – it's at three pages and counting!

Cantor Jodi Sufrin Event Enjoyed by All

Musical merriment filled Simon Hall on Sunday, Sept. 25th as Three Score and More kicked off its first event of the year back in our Temple home. Cantor Jodi Sufrin entertained us with her beautiful voice and regaled us with stories about Jewish composers and their Broadway songs. We sang along with her as she showcased her amazing repertoire, and we laughed at her many humorous stories.

Following the musical segment, we enjoyed a scrumptious ice cream sundae buffet provided by Truly Yogurt of Wellesley.

The program continued with our TBS archivist Florence Schumacher's presentation of a special video about our Holocaust Torah. Rabbi Perlman brought the Torah into the room, unrolling part of it to give everyone an opportunity to view the Hebrew lettering up close. He explained that our Torah is called a Kabbalist Torah because of its unique Hebrew writing. Previously housed behind glass in the display case of our pre-construction atrium, the Holocaust Torah will now be kept in the Beit Midrash in a special ark and shared with and used by the congregation.

Our event was a smash and we hope you will join us for future events!



Annual Shofar Appeal: Getting Closer to Our Goal

From David Grebber and Jeffrey Popkin, Co-Chairs

During the High Holidays services, you should have received the 2016 Annual Shofar Appeal brochure. We hope you have enjoyed this visual opportunity to celebrate the light, vibrancy, and energy of our new building and our multi-generation Temple community.

The Annual Shofar Appeal allows our Temple to provide each of us with:

- A rich tapestry of Jewish learning opportunities for all ages.
- A clergy and professional staff who set the standards of excellence in Temple administration.
- A community active in *chesed* and *tikkun olam* – warmly reaching out to congregants during times of joy and in times of need.
- Award-winning programming and education for students beginning at birth through high school and beyond.
- An accessible Jewish community regardless of financial need.

If you have not already done so, please consider making a *Tzedakah* donation to our Annual Shofar Appeal. Our fundraising **goal is \$118,000**. Your contribution of any amount is greatly appreciated and shows your commitment to the continued existence of our Temple not just for you, but for our children and grandchildren.

Kindly return your donation card to the Temple today or donate online: www.TFAforms.com/258077. Questions? Contact Marguerite Dowd (mdowd@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

Looking Forward to the Boston Jewish Film Festival

By Steven Sherry

As the clairvoyant film critic happy to tell you anything you would like to know about any movie before I have seen it, I am very excited about the 2016 Boston Jewish Film Festival being held November 9-21, 2016. The lineup, which has something for almost everyone, includes the following four movies.

On The Map

Israel's 1977 basketball team was the first team to bring the European Cup to Israel, just a few years after the Yom Kippur War. When this ragtag team of Israelis and Americans won, Israel was placed firmly on the map. With incredible footage of 1970s Israel and interviews with Bill Walton and the other athletes who made history, "On the Map" honors Israeli heroes and mesmerizes fans of the game. English and Hebrew with subtitles.



Moos

Moos' life consists of cooking, cleaning, and helping out in her dad's textile shop. But when her childhood friend Sam returns for a surprise visit, she's inspired to revisit her dream of attending the local performing arts academy. Moos fails the audition, but tries to save face by telling everyone she got in. She secretly starts taking singing lessons to prepare to re-apply – and begins a clandestine affair with her handsome new teacher. While Sam is realizing his feelings for Moos may be more than platonic, Moos finds herself trying to stay grounded. Dutch with subtitles.



The Origin of Violence

While on a research trip to Buchenwald, Nathan Fabre, a young non-Jewish professor, discovers a photo of a prisoner who looks remarkably like his father. Back in France, he confronts his reluctant father and begins a search for truth that will dismantle everything he knows about himself. Based on the novel by Fabrice Humbert. French and German with subtitles.



Shtisel

Jump into one of Israel's hottest TV shows, soon to be adapted as an American series! There's no need to have seen Season 1 in order to follow Season



2 and become immersed in the drama of the Shtisel family. Israelis have fallen in love with this ultra-Orthodox family living in Jerusalem. Artistic Akiva devotes more time to his painting than finding a wife, but when his uncle comes with his beautiful daughter, Akiva begins to reassess his priorities. Meanwhile, his sister Giti is trying to rebuild trust with her husband, who still seems more eager to make a buck than to buckle down. Hebrew and Yiddish with subtitles.

For more information on the times and locations, please go to www.bjff.org. Now all you need is a bucket of popcorn. I hope to run into you at the movies!!

NOVEMBER

For the most current and complete event notices, please see the TBS calendar (<http://tbsneedham.org/calendar>) and the weekly email. Planning an event? Submit it here: <http://bit.ly/tbs-scroll>

2

TBS Journey to Eastern Europe and Israel in 2017 - Info Session

Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at 7:30 PM

Join Rabbi Perlman as he shares information about a TBS trip to Eastern Europe and Israel in the fall of 2017. Bring back lasting memories of our travels to historic Jewish sites in Budapest, Prague, and Vienna, culminating in time spent in Israel – the land of redemption for generations of the Jewish people.



RSVP: Carol Bolton Kappel (carolbk@comcast.net)

4

Tot Shabbat Dinner and Tot Shabbat Services

Friday, November 4, 2016. Dinner at 5:30 PM in TBS Simon Hall, Services at 6:15 PM in TBS Sanctuary

Shabbat Dinner: Join us for a child-friendly dinner before Tot Shabbat services. \$30 per family.

Shabbat Services: Whether or not your family will come for dinner, join us to celebrate Shabbat with songs and prayers in this 30 minute service designed especially for young children and their family. Stay afterwards and join us for cookies and challah! Free.

RSVP and register online for one or more dinners at: bit.ly/totshabbatdinner.

Questions? Contact: Ellen Dietrick (edietrick@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

5

Pajama Havdalah for Families with Young Children

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 4:00 - 5:00 PM at TBS

Put on your PJ's and join us to celebrate the end of Shabbat with crafts and blessings.

Questions? Contact: Ellen Dietrick (edietrick@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

6

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood Presents: The Rummage Sale at TBS!

Sunday, November 6, 2016: Drop-off: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, Sale: 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Monday, November 7, 2016: Bag sale: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

It's that time of year again and Sisterhood needs your donations and assistance. Costume and better jewelry is welcome. Please: no computers or monitors (unless they are new), and no broken or damaged items.

We need everyone's help to make this event a success. Many volunteers will be needed Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon during the sale and Monday evening after the bag sale.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact: Bonnie Littman (781-449-8793, bonlitt@gmail.com)



NOVEMBER

6

TBS Garden Club - Needham's Antiques Show

Sunday, November 6, 2016, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Needham High School

Beth Shalom Garden Club is sponsoring our 19th annual Needham's Antique Show at the Needham High School. There are dealers from six states selling quality antiques, and verbal appraisals are available. This is our club's only fundraiser. The proceeds support our planting at the Vietnam Memorial, garden therapy at Charles River Workshop, donations to the Needham High School and Needham's Art in Bloom among others. Come and enjoy antiques and support your garden club.

Adult Admission is \$7.00; with an ad, \$6.00.

Questions? Contact: Carol Gershman (calhal71@comcast.net)

13

Leroy Davis Sports Breakfast

Sunday, November 13, 2016, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, at TBS Simon Hall

Please join us for our annual Leroy Davis Sports Breakfast! This year we will have a panel discussion on Sports Media in the 21st Century. The panel will feature:

Gary Tanguay, Comcast SportsNet New England Anchor

with Temple Beth Shalom members:

Jimmy Young, Sports Director for Snap Call Sports, and

Morry Levine, Director of Programming Operations for Comcast SportsNet New England

This event will include a 50/50 Raffle. Also, former Temple Beth Shalom member Tom Temin will provide a special dedication for Leroy Davis on the 40th anniversary of his passing.

Registration Fee: \$10.00 - register at tiny.cc/leroy

Questions? Contact: Marty Goldberg (mjg95@verizon.net)

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
BROTHERHOOD



SAVE THE DATE



DEC

11

TBS Brotherhood Community Blood Drive

Sunday, December 11, 2016, at TBS, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Do a mitzvah! Donate blood! And volunteer to help out at the annual Blood Drive event - we need your help to set up the tables and chairs, to greet donors, and to clean up at 4:00 PM.

Register online now: <http://tiny.cc/tbsblood>

DEC

25

Project Ezra - A Mitzvah You'll Never Forget

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Temple Beth Shalom will once again join hands with the Needham Community Council to provide Christmas dinners to members of the community. Each year the need seems to increase, so please help us; we cannot do this Mitzvah without you. Please participate! Volunteers are needed to:



* Carve the turkeys * Assemble the dinners * Deliver the dinners * Bake "finger desserts"

Know of someone who needs a dinner on Christmas Day? Please, let us know.

To sign up for any one or more of these tasks, contact: Lois Sockol (781-449-1226) or June Atkind (617-462-4350)

Shiva Minyan Leaders: Comforting the Living and Honoring the Departed

By Jon Cohan

There are many communities within the TBS Community. These communities attempt to cover all life stages and interests of our members. One community – not well publicized but often utilized – are the lay leaders of shiva minyans. This team of about eight members are on call to assist families in paying respects to the recently departed and beginning the healing process at the most personal time of loss.

We've spoken to members of the shiva minyan team to get an understanding of their desire to be a part of this (at times) difficult task – and what it means to them.

A Beautiful and Intimate Experience

One member observed, "It's interesting to me that it is the most difficult situation that often in the end is most meaningful. One minyan I led was for an elderly gentleman who lost his wife. It was the last night of shiva and I was the only one to attend. After waiting some time for others to appear, I reassured him that he and I could honor his wife together. We held hands while he told me a story about his wife and then we sang the prayers together. In the end it was beautiful to have such an intimate experience." The minyan leader added, "I felt so grateful to have been able to facilitate this ritual for him and grateful for Reform Judaism that allowed me to be in the moment and form a community for the minyan even though it was not the traditional ten."

Bringing Comfort and Connection

This theme was repeated by other members, who spoke of how the ability to lead the service and be there for the smallest of families was something that fulfilled a need in their souls and the community.

Another member stated, "It is not easy to walk into someone else's home during a time of mourning. I never know what the aura is going to be. No matter what, though,

it feels holy to be part of this ancient ritual that, at its best, brings comfort and connection to the family in a difficult time."

Getting involved with this group does not require much more than the ability to recite the prayers and understand the flow of the service, and the willingness to share your time. Often some improvisation is required, such as the instance where there was a mixed-faith family and the recently departed was the only person who was Jewish in the family. For this family the leader led the service in English, but recited the Mourner's Kaddish in Hebrew. After the service, the spouse came up to the leader and thanked him for creating the connection between the departed, his faith, and the family.

If you are interested in being a part of this community, reach out to Rabbi Jay or Steve Staum (snstbaum@gmail.com). It would be an honor to have you join this group.

LEARNING

On Shabbat mornings we often have more than one enriching opportunity for Torah learning. You can visit one or both, and choose the learning that is right for you.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study - with Rabbi Perlman and Rabbi Markley

Join us for our very popular weekly discussion of the week's Torah portion. Each week, dozens of members of our community gather to share, question, laugh, eat and encounter the stories of the Torah in ways that help shape how we see the world, each other, our lives! No experience necessary! No RSVP needed. All are welcome!

Every Saturday morning at TBS, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah - with Rabbi Orkand

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

Every Saturday morning at TBS, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

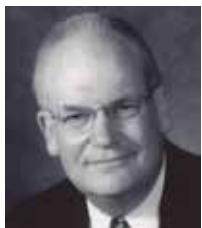
(Class will not meet during the month of January 2017.) No RSVP is necessary.
Questions? Contact: Marguerite Dowd (781-444-0077, mdowd@tbsneedham.org)

Friday Morning "Pre-Shabbat" Yoga

Join Stephanie Javaheri for a mindful and invigorating yoga flow to build strength and flexibility of body and mind. This is the perfect way to get ready for Shabbat! This class is for beginners or veterans of yoga. Come with an open mind and experience what yoga can do for you! Please bring your own mat, if you have one. We will have a few available. Participants may come to one, some, or every Friday morning session. No RSVP is necessary.

Every Friday morning at TBS, 8:45 - 9:45 AM through December (Class will not meet on November 11, 2016.)
Questions? Contact: Stephanie (sjavaheri@me.com)

Exploring Genesis - Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Bob Orkand



This course focuses on the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis. This particular book is an extremely rich text that can be approached from a variety of perspectives, including literary, historical, theological, and archaeological. We will approach the text as an extraordinary work of literature, highlighting the many literary devices employed by its ancient author(s). We will discuss the text's history and raise fundamental questions regarding whether the biblical characters lived at all. As well, we will delve into theological issues raised by the book. Join us for this fascinating text-ploration! Participants may attend all or any of Rabbi Orkand's sessions.

Mondays, 12:00 - 1:30 PM at TBS: November 7, November 14, November 21, November 28, December 5, December 12, 2016.

To register, and for more information, contact: Marguerite Dowd (781-444-0077, mdowd@tbsneedham.org)

LEARNING (CONTINUED)

Just Another Denomination? Jews, Christians, and Jewish Christians in the First 400 Years



People often think of Christianity as a “daughter” religion of Judaism, breaking away from the earlier, more ancient religion in the first century CE. But recent scholarship has pointed out the porous boundaries between “Judaism” and “Christianity” in antiquity, perhaps well into the fourth century CE. How might the Jewish community of the first century and its successors have given rise to what we now know as two distinct religions? What does a more nuanced understanding of this history teach us about contemporary intra-Jewish debates, radical theologies, and Jewish-Christian relations?

This is a Hebrew College “Me’ah Select” course. The instructor is Rabbi Micha’el Rosenberg, Ph.D.; his bio can be found at <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah-faculty>. Tuition is \$300.00 for TBS members, \$350 for non-TBS members; scholarship is available.

10 weekly sessions at TBS, Tuesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, starting November 1, 2016.

Register online: <https://secure.hebrewcollege.edu/node/1087> [or look in your weekly TBS email newsletter for the announcement of this class and a clickable link].

Questions? Contact: Marguerite Dowd (mdowd@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

“What’s Nu?” - A Monthly Conversation with Rabbi Lenke

Join with Rabbi Lenke on the first Wednesday of each month and engage in discussion regarding a current event impacting the Jewish community. Conversations will explore meaningful issues, as well as their implications, impact, and influence on our lives as Jews or as part of a Jewish family. Feel free to attend one or more of the sessions, as each month will focus on a different topic.

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 AM at TBS: Nov. 2, Dec 7, 2016, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, 2017.

No RSVP necessary.

Questions? Contact: Rabbi Lenke (rabbilenke@tbsneedham.org)

EVENT HIGHLIGHT: SUKKOT CELEBRATIONS



PHOTOS BY ALAN NOVICK



Presidential Leadership at TBS

By Amy Willis

When we think of Temple Beth Shalom, many wonderful elements come to mind: our warm and caring clergy, our energetic professional staff, our beautiful new building, inspiring music, and spirit. And, of course, all of us -- the hundreds of awesome, welcoming individuals and families who comprise the TBS community.

Another component essential to the success and growth of TBS -- one that is sometimes overlooked -- is our ever-expanding team of lay leaders. These are the folks who volunteer their time to plan for our community's future, to run engaging programs, and to help bring our celebration of Judaism to life. Lay leadership includes everyone from the President of the Board to our many committee chairs to the dozens of worker-bees who lead minyan, coordinate our onegs, and organize tikkun olam projects. Enthusiastic lay leaders are critical at every level of our organization.

A Constellation of Leaders

"Our community is not staff-run," said Rabbi Jay, adding that our large community could not and should not revolve around the clergy. "Every TBS family is in partnership with every other family in order to create the fabric of Temple life. The only way to make that ideal real is through intentionally created constellations of leaders -- leaders of our women's and men's communities, our Three Score and More group, our children's programs, and all our committees. Our lay leaders make everything happen and help everyone find a way to connect with each other and to the beauty of our tradition."

Moving Up the Ladder

Many individuals who have served as President of TBS started their volunteer lives as committee members, then became committee chairs, and continued to move up the ladder of temple leadership. For example, Ina Glasberg, TBS President from 1989-1991, initially joined the Temple to interact with people who had common religious values, interests, goals and purpose. "I joined many different committees led by many capable people," she said. "I fell into leadership roles." Rich Luskin, TBS President from 1993-1995, was initially encouraged by a friend to help out with Brotherhood. From there, Rich joined other Temple committees and eventually the TBS Board.

Lending Skills and Talents

Every congregant has strengths and talents to share with the TBS community. "Not too long after joining TBS, I was chosen to be Treasurer, an obvious position since I was a CPA," said Bill Carmen, who later served as President from 1961-1962. Even volunteers who do not wish to serve on the Board support the mission of TBS. "Contributors are just as valuable as leaders," said Sheldon Bycoff, who served as President from 1987-1989. "Workers still contribute enormously to the group."

Getting to Know People

Individuals who serve as leaders of TBS, particularly those who take on the important role of President, describe many benefits one can derive from stepping up to a leadership role. The first benefit is an expanded circle of friends.



FEATURE STORY (CONTINUED)

"When I was President from 1999-2001," said Louis Grossman, "there were people whom I had known casually, whom I got to know more intimately by working toward shared goals and values." Steve Shusterman, President from 1985-1987, agreed. "The most rewarding part of being President was feeling that I knew virtually everyone. It was a warm and close feeling."

Working with the Rabbis

Another benefit is the opportunity to work closely with our rabbis and professional staff. Richard Bookman, President from 1995-1997, shared, "The most gratifying part of serving as TBS President was working and learning from the professional staff and particularly working closely with Rabbi Sonsino." Peggy Gassman, who served as President from 2005-2007, described a similar experience. "A special part of my being President was the opportunity to meet with Rabbi Jay one on one, every week for two years," she explained. "It was a wonderful honor and privilege."

Decisions that Shape Our Community

The opportunity to see the inner workings of the Temple up close and to contribute to major decisions that will shape our community is very rewarding for our leaders. "I was President from 2001-2003, during Rabbi Sonsino's last two years," said Steve Singer. "We were preparing to celebrate him, while searching for our new rabbi and planning the future of the Temple. I was so thrilled we collectively made the decision to hire Rabbi Jay." He continued, "I was also fortunate to be asked, later, to chair the committee that chose Rabbi Todd. That was another great decision!"

An Evolving Role

Day-to-day life at TBS and the role of lay leaders have changed significantly over the years as our membership, our building, and our staff have grown. "When I was President," Rich Luskin described, "we had one rabbi and one cantorial soloist. We hired Sandy Hain during my presidency, and we had one secretary. Many things fell on the shoulders of the volunteers and the rabbi."

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

And oh, how the times themselves change. "After 35 years of male presidents," Ina Glasberg said, "I was chosen as the first woman President of TBS (in 1989). I felt so fortunate surrounded by a board of men -- they were very supportive. Many very capable women followed me and have played many leadership roles."

New Leaders Set the Course for the Future

It's very important to have a constant stream of new leaders coming through TBS to continue moving us forward. "This is not my parents' congregation any longer," said Jonathan Kappel, who from 2007-2008 served as the first second-generation TBS President. "It is good to remember the history of the community, but it's also good for new leaders to set the course for the future." Mark Rosen, President from 2003-2005, agreed. "It's important to bring fresh perspectives to leadership, to always be improving, to bring new ideas so things don't become stagnant."

New Opportunities

As the TBS community continues to grow, so do opportunities for leadership. "There used to be one person running minyan every Saturday," said Peggy Gassman. "Now there are 15 people who are minyan leaders. New people bring new energy. There are 40 people taking shifts at the new welcome desk in the temple atrium -- that's an easy way for volunteers to meet people and get to know the Temple, and then wade into more things."

Meaningful Moments

While serving in a leadership role in any organization can have its challenges, our past presidents have no regrets. "Serving as President is a great opportunity to learn how to balance one's professional, family, and volunteer lives -- you come out a stronger person in all three areas," said Jonathan Kappel.

Ed Zaval, President from 2014-2016, described the most meaningful moment of his presidency: "It was the evening in 2014 when the board unanimously approved the Mikdash project -- it was just the first of many key moments and celebrations."

Chuck Levin was President from 1991-1993. "It was a real treat to be President of the congregation," he said. "It was a great experience." Sheldon Bycoff felt the same way. "Being President broadened my understanding of Reform Judaism. It was a very rewarding experience that gave me great pleasure."

Our New President

Bernice Sue Behar, our new Temple President, is the perfect example of a person who developed leadership

Continued on page 20.

EDUCATION

Outdoor Learning at Temple Beth Shalom

By Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning

When I think about learning environments, I am guided by the educational philosophy of Reggio Emilia, a town in Italy considered to have the best early childhood education system in the world. Fundamental to the philosophy of Reggio Emilia is the idea that children have three teachers. Their first teacher is their parent, who guides them from day one. When the child enters school, the classroom teacher becomes their second teacher, teaching them more of what they need to know to navigate the world. The third teacher is the one we often forget to mention: the learning environment. Just as the inside of our new Temple home has been intentionally crafted to be each child's third teacher, the outdoor environment has also been planned with great care to present children with rich learning experiences.

The Importance of Outdoor Play

Young children have a huge task in front of them: absorbing vast amounts of basic knowledge about the world. The things we as adults know and can do, almost without thinking, have to be learned. The most effective way to achieve this is through outdoor play. With that knowledge at the center, as part of our Mikdash project, we have taken our outdoor space from playGROUND to playSCAPE.

The research and the thinking on outdoor learning have changed over the last 25 years. When we think of playgrounds, we tend to think of allowing children to take a break and burn off steam. A true outdoor learning environment goes well beyond that goal and contributes to the development of children's brain and nerve functions. On a traditional playground the equipment is predictable. It's fun to climb up the stairs to the top of a climbing structure, but after the first time it's too easy. The spaces between the stairs are consistent and unchanging, offering no real physical or mental challenge. After a few times up



and down, the task has been fully mastered and there's no longer any learning involved in the experience.

Multiple Layers of Learning

Children need a bit of struggle to learn. They need to be challenged to think. They need to be encouraged to work together to solve a problem. If the opportunities are there,



they will pursue them. I have a personal litmus test for any experience we offer to children. Each must have at least three layers of learning to pass muster and be worth our limited time. When applied to outdoor learning, it was clear that we needed to up the ante. We needed to create opportunities embedded with many layers of learning to encourage our children's brains to spark.

With that knowledge in mind, we embarked on the transition from playGROUND to playSCAPE. Working with Fred Martin of Environment Design and our team of educators, we carefully considered the many aspects of children's development and planned elements to maximize learning in each area.

The PlaySCAPE Design

Instead of simply stairs to climb, there is a large, sloped hill where children are learning to adjust their balance to climb up and down. In the winter months this will become a mountain for sliding down in snowsuits. The layers of learning include the physical challenge, the mental exercise of planning the ascent, and the joy of being able to see the entire playSCAPE from high up.

Stumps of varying heights, widths, and distances require children to think and plan, and offer unlimited challenges as they are rearranged.

EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Children's senses are awakened with sounds, sights, and smells. Our havdalah garden encourages passersby to stop and smell the herbs, and children take turns harvesting them for our weekly Children's Center havdalah rituals. Layers of learning as the children plant and water the garden include caring for plants , the sensory aspects, and the connections to Jewish ritual.

Materials for building, such as giant wooden blocks, require children to use their whole bodies, building strength and



Our water flume engages young engineers. Water is naturally intriguing, drawing children to explore its properties. This curiosity sparks experimentation as children use pipes and chutes to channel the water from one section of the flume to another, to run it through tubing, or to move it to and from various containers.

The next time you are at the Temple, stop by and take a peek at our playSCAPE. We are confident that you will see the layers for learning in action.



coordination. Our constructivist learning philosophy, where children construct their knowledge from direct experience, is put into practice as they build their own elaborate play structures.

Our playSCAPE has a density of diversity: a collection of micro-habitats that will harbor lots of natural discoveries, stumps to turn over on a hunt for roly polies, tall grasses to explore, and a plant wall. Many layers of learning are tucked into every corner.

Climbing walls on our tree house and hill highlight many areas of learning, requiring the use of confidence, creative thinking, and strong core body muscles to get to the top. The children build confidence by moving outside of their comfort zone in a safe and controlled environment. The climbing walls serve as puzzles, as children try to figure out the best way to navigate the path to the top. Their brains are in full gear as they stretch their minds and bodies toward creative solutions.



FEATURE STORY (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 17.

skills over many years of involvement at TBS. As Director of the Family Table program at Jewish Family & Children's Service, Bernice Sue has experience managing programs and embodying the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*. Yet, until recently, she never envisioned herself as the leader of a large, thriving temple community.

"I grew up in a small congregation in New Mexico," Bernice Sue explained. "There was no rabbi or cantor. There were very few Jewish kids, and no Jewish camps. I valued my Jewish connection, but I didn't have much of it there."

As an adult, Bernice Sue was happy to find Temple Beth Shalom, but, she said, "I never thought of myself as a leader -- certainly not of the Jewish community." For her first few years serving on the TBS Board, she mostly listened to the conversations. "Other people at the table had more perspective than I did about the history of the Temple...it takes time to get to know the culture of a place and be able to contribute."

Bernice Sue thought about how her skills could fit into Temple life, and she gained knowledge and confidence through working with different committees, such as the Religious School Committee and the Social Action Committee. As Vice President of *Tikkun Olam*, she became a valuable contributor to various committees, and

eventually she grew into thinking of herself as a leader.

"Leadership has made my Temple experience more meaningful," Bernice Sue said. "The opportunity to meet people whom I may not have otherwise, to have great conversations, to get to know people and their passions -- it makes my life as a congregant more meaningful. I didn't know (past President) Ina Glasberg until we roomed together at the URJ Biennial, and we have been the best of friends ever since!"

Bernice Sue's biggest goal for the next two years will be making sure our new building is a warm, inviting space in which every congregant feels part of the community. "Through our Inclusion Task Force, we want to be sure people are greeted and feel comfortable getting around." She will also be working with our Financial Assistance Committee to ensure that people who need financial assistance take advantage of the help that is available. Members who receive financial assistance should "feel respected and just as equal a member" as others at TBS.

Finally, Bernice Sue will work to ensure adequate administrative structures are in place for our growing community. It is important to her that the TBS office is fully staffed, and that "our clergy and staff feel their work is valued, that they feel satisfied and supported."



The advertisement features the Temple Beth Shalom logo at the top, which consists of a stylized menorah icon above the text "TEMPLE BETH SHALOM". Below the logo is a photo of a young girl laughing joyfully. To the right of the photo is a blue sidebar with white text listing "Limited Openings", "Ages 15 Months to Kindergarten", and "Full & Part Time". At the bottom right is contact information: "Temple Beth Shalom Children's Center", "tbsfamily.org", and the phone number "781-444-0077".

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Rabbi Perlman for helping me on my Bar Mitzvah
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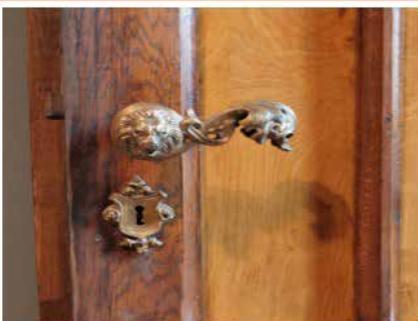
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Temple Beth Shalom will once again join hands with the Needham Community Council to provide Christmas dinners to members of the community. Each year the need seems to increase, so please help. We cannot do this mitzvah without you.

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Learn how you can help. Details inside. - Info: Lois Sockol (781-864-2393), or June Atkind (617-462-4350)

Donate blood.

Do a mitzvah!

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
BROTHERHOOD



Community Blood Drive

Register online now: <http://tiny.cc/tbsblood>

Sunday, December 11, 2016 - 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Simon Hall, Temple Beth Shalom, Needham



Temple Beth Shalom

670 Highland Avenue
Needham, MA 02494
781-444-0077

www.tbsneedham.org

Member, Union for Reform Judaism;
Affiliated with Synagogue Council
of Massachusetts

Rabbi Jay Perlman
Rabbi Todd Markley
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