

# Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom - Needham, Massachusetts

November 2017

Cheshvan/Kislev 5778



## Honoring Their Service

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Volume 45, Issue 3

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Cover collage by Peter Mesnik

From the Editorial Board

## Giving Thanks: To Those Who Served

As the Scroll Editorial Board brainstormed ideas for the November issue, a singular thought came to us all: Veterans Day. As a congregation, we make care packages for Israeli soldiers. What if we feature TBS veterans and ask them about care packages they may have received during their military service and any other experience they want to share? And so the request went out in the “TBS This Week” email.

The first response we received was preceded by this telling note: “I’ll stand corrected but I believe in my fifty years as a member of TBS, this is a first - ‘support veterans’...”

Thus began the outpouring of personal memories. And while we heard about many, we know that there are many, many more we did not hear.

- We know that those who wrote spared us the most difficult parts of their experiences.
- We know that some may not have written at all because the horrors were too painful to revisit.
- We know that many congregants have extended family who gave of themselves to protect their countries.
- And we recognize with sorrow those who did not make it back to give us the luxury of embracing them as part of our TBS family.

In this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, we express our gratefulness for the freedoms and privileges our veterans ensured for our American and Jewish homelands. It is their sacrifices that helped give us the freedom to enjoy the privileges of our daily lives - from enjoying our nourishment to nurturing our children. All of us who read and reflect on their personal recollections can count our blessings.

- Joni Burstein on behalf of the Scroll Editorial Board



Please join the TBS community for

### **Minyan**

Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM  
Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM  
Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM when Mayim is in session  
all at TBS

From the Clergy

## Tzedek

By Rabbi Jay Perlman



The following is an excerpt from the sermon that Rabbi Perlman shared on Rosh Hashanah morning. The full sermon may be read on the TBS website.

... In Jewish tradition, the foundational quality possessed by Abraham was that he was a Tzadik... a truly righteous soul. And woven repeatedly throughout the fabric of what it means to be Jewish is a call to follow closely in Abraham's footsteps – to look upon the world as it is... and to remain unrelentingly committed to the pursuit of tzedek – “righteousness” or “justice.” The commands and teachings are found throughout Torah and rabbinic literature: In Deuteronomy 16:18 we read that the children of Israel are told: “Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof... Justice, justice shall you pursue in order that you may live...” The prophet Isaiah – living in the 8th Century BCE – proclaimed: “Learn to do good... to seek justice... to relieve oppression... to ensure righteousness for the orphan and the widow.” For emphasis, our Sages even went so far as to put this teaching at the center of our Yom Kippur liturgy. Once again we hear Isaiah's voice. Upon witnessing the Jewish people paying far more attention to Temple practice than to the people's needs in the streets, Isaiah forcefully proclaimed God's message: “This is the fast that I desire!” – he says – “To undo the chains of evil... to let the oppressed go free... to allow righteousness to go forth from before you.” It is a bold reminder on our holiest day that we should never confuse our ritual observance with our ethical responsibility.

In Judaism, the pursuit of justice is not merely a societal good, it is a spiritual imperative. And it is impossible to come together as a Jewish community at this season – focusing as we do on the essence of life's meaning – and not speak of the rise in hatred... bigotry... and intolerance in our country... and in our communities.

The events of Charlottesville were beyond shocking – leaving us in a cloud of anger and disbelief. For a Temple community – in 2017 – to have been brazenly intimidated by a mob of armed neo-Nazis – would have been unheard of just several months ago. The images of hundreds of torch-bearing white supremacists – calling out “Seig Heil” and other anti-Semitic epithets – carrying flags emblazoned with swastikas and other symbols of hate – filled news coverage. An online letter written by Congregation Beth Israel's president, Alan Zimmerman, went viral almost immediately. In it, he vividly described what he experienced that

## NOVEMBER 2017 SERVICES

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 (15 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
7:15 PM — Contemplative *Shabbat* Service (*Beit Midrash*)  
7:15 PM — *Simchat Shabbat* Service (Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 (15 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
*Torah: VaYera*, Gen. 18:1 – 22:24  
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in *Torah* (Large Conference Room)  
4:30 PM — *Shabbat Mincha* Service (Sanctuary)  
*B'nei Mitzvah*: Matthew McConchie and Lilly Remondi

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 (22 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
7:15 PM — *Shabbat* Evening Service (Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (22 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
*Torah: Chayei 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* (Large Conference Room)  
5:00 PM — *Shabbat Mincha* Service (Sanctuary)  
*B'nei Mitzvah*: Ava and Jack Lunder

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 (29 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
6:15 PM — *Shabbat* Evening Service (Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 (29 CHESHVAN 5778)**  
*Torah: Toldot*, Gen. 25:19 – 28:9  
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in *Torah* (Large Conference Room)  
11:00 AM — *Shabbat Morning* Service (Sanctuary)  
*Bar Mitzvah*: Andrew Berkman  
5:00 PM — *Shabbat Mincha* Service (Sanctuary)  
*Bat Mitzvah*: Marissa Farly

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 (7 KISLEV 5778)**  
6:15 PM — *Shabbat* Evening Service (Sanctuary)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25 (7 KISLEV 5778)**  
*Torah: VaYetze*, Gen. 28:10 – 32:3  
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (*Beit Midrash*)  
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in *Torah* (Large Conference Room)  
11:00 AM — *Shabbat Morning* Service (Sanctuary)  
*Bar Mitzvah*: Matthew Euse

Saturday morning as forty members of his congregation were gathered inside for Shabbat services...

What happened in Charlottesville was not an isolated incident...

On Rosh Hashanah, it is this unflagging personal commitment to justice that we are asked to rekindle...

Continued on Page 6.

# A Season of Giving Thanks

By Bernice Behar, President



In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, as Americans, and as Jews who happen to live in America. We gather around a bountiful meal with family and friends. We pause in our work, and travel to be with people we love. The purpose of this time is to give thanks for our blessings, extending from the food on our table to the relationships that bring us joy, love, and meaning.

November also brings us to a place in the Torah that echoes with themes of gratitude. When Leah gives birth to her fourth child, she names him Judah, which has the root of the word “thanks” in it. I was surprised to learn that Leah has been thought of as the first person in the Torah to offer such a deliberate expression of gratitude to G-D. Her gratitude is considered extraordinary because she offers it amid profound disappointment, having never truly won the love of Jacob. It is also said that she expected to have three children and the fourth was a gift beyond what she believed was her lot in life, a life in which she had suffered much sorrow. The logic which may follow is that sometimes we are compelled to feel grateful most easily when we measure against a modest or even a “worst case” set of expectations or when some surprising turn of events startles us into a moment of thanks.

I would like to think that feeling grateful is more the norm - that it is not limited to the episodic events or milestones that punctuate life, or that it doesn't simply derive from a “well, things could be worse” mindset. What happens when we learn to be truly grateful for the most ordinary and simple things in life? Could that serve to amplify our feelings of gratitude when the extraordinary happens - essentially increasing our bandwidth for gratitude? And

how can we carry gratitude with us through the highs, the lows, and all the many middle parts of each day?

Jewish life offers many opportunities to practice gratitude as part of the rhythm of our daily life. There are *brachot*, or blessings, for every possible circumstance, and every prayer service includes the prayer of *hoda'ah*, which call us to reflect on our blessings. And Judaism is not alone in encouraging people to incorporate gratitude into daily routines. Our *hamotzi* is echoed in other religions and cultures as well, which extend a blessing before partaking of food. I learned living in Japan many years ago, that no food or drink is ever consumed without first saying “itadakimasu” (I humbly receive this) and, after one has partaken, “gochisosamadeshita” (It was delicious).

Formal blessings and acknowledgements help us remember that we are cared and provided for. But we also know that while acknowledging one's blessings is important, it's only a first step. After all, it's the actions we take, the relationships we nurture, and the good we do in the world that matter.

In this season of gratitude, I offer heartfelt thanks to our TBS staff and clergy for their hard work on behalf of our community and to our lay leadership for their dedication as we move from strength to strength.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Spring Musical: "Damn Yankees"

**Auditions: Sun., Dec. 3 (7:00 - 9:00 PM) and Wed., Dec. 6, 2017 (7:15 - 9:15 PM) at TBS**

Calling all thespians!! Temple Beth Shalom presents "Damn Yankees," a wickedly funny romantic comedy, which will be held on Thursday, April 26, Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29, 2018, at the Newman School in Needham. This show promises to be both a lot of fun and hard work for all who want to be a part of this great adventure. It has a flexible cast size and each actor will appear in several musical numbers. Auditions are open to adults and teens (grade 10 and higher) and will be held at TBS on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, from 7:00-9:00 PM as well as on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, from 7:15-9:15 PM. Call-backs will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at 7:00 PM. Rehearsals will be held at TBS on Sundays from 4:30-9:00 PM and Wednesdays from 7:15-9:15 PM beginning on Sunday, January 7, 2018 (Length of rehearsal time will depend upon your role.)

Questions, or for more information, contact any of the producers: Janet Zaval ([janetzaval@gmail.com](mailto:janetzaval@gmail.com)), Richard Atkind ([richatkind@verizon.net](mailto:richatkind@verizon.net)) or Barbara Pack ([barbpack@comcast.net](mailto:barbpack@comcast.net))

## Circle of Hope Coat Drive

**December 1 through December 20, 2017**

Circle of Hope (COH) is a Needham-based non-profit assisting those living in homeless shelters or struggling for independent lives by collecting and distributing new and gently used clothing. Temple Beth Shalom partners with Circle of Hope and is conducting its Annual Coat Drive to assist Circle of Hope. Please consider donating any of your unneeded coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and boots for men, women, and children. All donations must be clean and in good condition, as they will be distributed immediately. Donations can be placed in the designated bin in the Temple lobby. Watch "TBS This Week" emails for announcements of dates when contributions can be made during Children's Center and Mayim/Etzim drop-off and pick-up. To make arrangements for larger donations, contact Peggy Lowenstein at [pelowenstein@gmail.com](mailto:pelowenstein@gmail.com). Last year we collected over 125 coats. Thank you in advance for helping us to exceed this record.



### From the Clergy, Continued from Page 3.

Calls to and visits with our legislators – Letters to leaders... and to newspapers – Peaceful presence at protests – Not only standing UP for those most vulnerable, but also standing with them in friendship and solidarity – Supporting organizations whose values align with your own... Providing humanitarian aid to the needy... Taking the time to research and learn about complex issues – Asking questions... and listening to answers... Engaging in meaningful dialogue with those whose opinions are different from your own... Reflecting on our own biases and assumptions... These are essential stepping stones paving the path to justice for all.

As a Temple community, we have created a congregation-wide initiative, "TBS Tzedek," to organize our own collective efforts... to leverage our capacity as hundreds of households to help bring about transformative positive change. We are working together in partnership with other congregations – Jewish and Interfaith – as well as with our own Reform Movement and with organizations dedicated as we are to social justice.

TBS Tzedek is rooted in our tradition's commitment to righteousness. And for each specific issue that our community works to address, there are three key goals: Education... Concrete Action... and Congregational Conversation. Together we are dedicated to working for both the betterment of our society... and better understanding and relationships amongst each other.

Information about TBS Tzedek and its activity is publicized in all of our Temple communications... I invite you to participate in this important community effort in any way that is meaningful for you – through activism and learning, as well as by offering the ideas and opinions that will enable us to shape our efforts together.

For more information about TBS Tzedek and/or to help guide our community-wide social justice efforts, please contact Rabbi Jay at [jperlman@tbsneedham.org](mailto:jperlman@tbsneedham.org).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Chesed Community: Shiva Outreach

At our most vulnerable moments, when we have suffered a loss, Shiva Outreach, a subgroup of our Chesed Community, is here to provide support. Chaired by Stephanie Kaufman, the volunteers of Shiva Outreach are among our busiest volunteers, reaching out to every family who has suffered a loss, offering a sympathetic ear, expressing the condolences of our community, and offering a meal either during or after Shiva.

Stephanie decided to assume leadership of the Shiva Outreach group following the loss of her father. Stephanie recalls that, at a time of great vulnerability, she felt supported and cared for by the group and that left a lasting impression.

Each year, as we near Rosh Hashanah, the Shiva outreach group reaches out to those of us who have suffered a loss in the prior year with a package of sweet remembrance. A jar of honey is lovingly packaged along with a wooden dipper and a note of remembrance from our community. Often our TBS kids and teens get involved by helping with the packaging and note writing. The packages, usually more than 70 of them, are then delivered by volunteers to the families' homes. Those who receive these packages are deeply touched by how, often months after their loss, our community reaches out to express our concern for them.

Shiva Outreach and all our Chesed volunteers spend countless hours connecting with our community in a myriad of ways. Articles will regularly appear in the Scroll highlighting various aspects of the work of our Chesed community. If you'd like more information please contact Wendy Shulman at [chesed@tbsneedham.org](mailto:chesed@tbsneedham.org). You can also support the work of the Chesed Community by donating to the Chesed Fund.



### Chesed Community: Rosh Hashanah Honey Delivery

At Rosh Hashanah, we express our gratitude for the sweetness of our lives. Carrying on a TBS tradition, our Chesed Community remembers those in our community who have suffered a loss and delivers a jar of honey with a note of remembrance to these families. This year we enlisted the help of our Mayyim Tamid group, children in K-1, to help us prepare these packages. Enjoy these pictures of our kids learning about and practicing Chesed.

# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

For the most current and complete event notices, please see the TBS calendar (<http://tbsneedham.org/calendar>), the website, and the weekly email. Planning an event? Submit it here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/407994>

## 4

### TBS Brotherhood 12th Annual Retreat



**Saturday, November 4 - Sunday, November 5, 2017**

Plan now to join us at the Ambassador Inn and Suites, Rt. 28, South Yarmouth, MA, for the Brotherhood's 12th Annual Retreat. Come down to this new location on Friday and arrive early if you wish - the Ambassador will be holding a block of rooms for us. Brotherhood will provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and we will all go out to dinner across the street at The Riverway Lobster House on Bass River in South Yarmouth, with three dinner choices, salad and dessert. We will have a morning minyan on Saturday, followed by discussions led by Rabbi Todd Markley and Rabbi Bob Orkand.

The retreat is always a great opportunity to get away from Needham, to connect with other men in our community, to experience Shabbat in a way that is not possible anywhere else. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us this year for what promises to be, once again, a truly remarkable experience. Registration information will be available soon - watch your emails. See you in South Yarmouth!

**Questions? Contact:** Glenn Stern (by email only: [glennnds@msn.com](mailto:glennnds@msn.com)). **Reserve a room: 508-394-4000**

## 3

### Tot Shabbat Dinner and Tot Shabbat Services

**Friday, Nov.3, 2017, Dinner: 5:30 PM, Services: 6:15 PM.**

Registration for dinner required - RSVP and register online at [tbsfamily.org](http://tbsfamily.org) under the "more" dropdown menu.

## 5

### "The Heroic Quest to Make Coca-Cola Kosher" with Rabbi Charlie Savor

**Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2:00 PM, at TBS**

Join us for this enjoyable and fascinating journey into the world of Coca-Cola! In the 1930's, Coca-Cola was becoming a national phenomenon. While it was not certified kosher, it was being consumed by the Jewish community. Coke desperately wanted to be available to all, so they contacted Rabbi Tobias Geffen, the rabbinic authority of the South. Discovering that Coke wasn't kosher, he took a creative and heroic approach to resolve the situation. Light refreshments (including Coke and Root Beer floats) will be served! Everyone is invited to this multi-generational event.



Presenter Rabbi Charlie Savor grew up in Needham. Today he serves as the Director of Congregational Education at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. Rabbi Savor has also served as the Director of Kehilla (Congregational) Development for the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Prior to serving the USCJ, Rabbi Savor was the Associate Dean and Director of Admissions at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Associate Rabbi at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago (1996-2001).

**COST:** \$5 per person, \$10 per family (2 or more people)

**Register:** <https://coca-cola-kosher.eventbrite.com>

# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## 7

### Sisterhood Games Night

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 7:15 PM, at TBS**

Join us for a casual Games Night at the temple. If you enjoy Mah Jongg, Canasta, Bananagrams or any other game, come play and schmooze with your Sisterhood friends. Look for more details, and the Sign-up Genius, in your email.

**Questions? Contact:** Janice Epstein (Janiceeps@comast.net)



## 12

### What Does Jewish Humor Teach Us About the Jews? With Rabbi Bob Orkand

**Sunday, November 12, 2017, 2:00 PM, in Simon Hall, TBS.**

What is Jewish humor anyway? Is a joke Jewish because it's told by a Jewish comedian? Is it Jewish because it deals with Jews? In short, is there one sentence that can capture the essence of Jewish humor? Probably not. After all, how could one statement encompass jokes about Jewish mothers, reckless and rude drivers in Israel, and anti-Semites? Rabbi Bob Orkand will help us explore Jewish humor and what it can teach us about what it means to be Jewish. Come ready to laugh a little (hopefully!) and learn a lot about the many truths Jewish humor reveals. This event is open to the entire adult TBS community; you don't have to be a TBS member to attend.

**Cost:** \$10.00 per person - Reservation and payment must be received by November 3, 2017.

**Please send your check (payable to Temple Beth Shalom) to:**

Millie Cohen, 100 Rosemary Way #226, Needham, MA 02494

**Questions? Contact:** Gary Goldman (eljo@comcast.net)

## 14

### Beth Shalom Garden Club: Floral Design Demonstration - Open to All!

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 7:00 PM at TBS**

Are you interested in learning new ideas for creating beautiful table settings? Then please join Beth Shalom Garden Club for a demonstration by Evelyn Lee, a flower farmer and floral designer from Butternut Gardens, Southport, Connecticut. She will design four tablescapes or design plans that coordinate flowers, tablecloths, place settings and props. Her garden-inspired floral designs use seasonally fresh flowers in a harmonious setting incorporating all the items on the table. All Temple Beth Shalom members are our welcome guests.

**Questions? Contact:** Carol Gershman (calhal71@comcast.net, 781-444-3868)

## Committee Meetings in November - Get Involved!

Committee Name	Upcoming Meeting Date	Email for Information
Adult Learning	Sun., Nov. 12, 2017, 9:30 AM	adult_learning@tbsneedham.org
Brotherhood	Tues., Nov. 14, 2017, 7:15 - 9:00 PM	brotherhood@tbsneedham.org
Garden Club	Tues., Nov. 7, 2017, 7:00 - 9:00 PM	gardenclub@tbsneedham.org
Library	Every Wed. in Nov. 2017, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	library@tbsneedham.org
Sisterhood	Wed., Nov. 15, 2017, 7:30 PM	sisterhood@tbsneedham.org
Three Score/more or less	Mon., Nov. 13, 2017, 7:30 PM	threescoreandmore@tbsneedham.org

# SAVE THE DATE

For the most current and complete event notices, please see the TBS calendar (<http://tbsneedham.org/calendar>), the website, and the weekly email. Planning an event? Submit it here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/407994>

DEC  
6

## The URJ Biennial Is Coming to Boston!

**Wednesday, December 6 – Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017**

With the theme of “Re-imagining Jewish Life,” our congregation will join hundreds of others from across North America at the URJ Biennial 2017 – and you need to be a part of this incredible event! Join our TBS delegation at the Hynes Convention Center for learning, prayer and song! **To register and for info on programming:** [www.urj.org/biennial](http://www.urj.org/biennial)

**Questions? Contact:** Ed Zaval ([edwardzaval@gmail.com](mailto:edwardzaval@gmail.com))



DEC  
8

## URJ Biennial Shabbat Services and Song Session

**Friday, December 8, 2017 at the Hynes Convention Center**

Included as part of the Registration Package for all Biennial registrants, the evening of Friday, December 8th, promises to be an extraordinary Shabbat and community song session. Limited seating is also available to non-registrants at no cost, but only on a “first-to-sign-up” basis.

**For more information, or to register:** [www.urj.org/biennial](http://www.urj.org/biennial), click the “Ways to Participate” tab, then click the “Boston Community” option. The sign-up link is on that page.

DEC  
10

## Annual Brotherhood Blood Drive

**Sunday, December 10, 2017, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at TBS.**

Please join us in performing the mitzvah of giving blood. As a community, we have contributed over 100 units of blood each year for the past several years. Not even the big snowstorm of a couple of years ago could stop us. According to the American Red Cross, ours is one of the biggest blood drives on their calendar. We provide bagels & lox, juice, and other sweets for all donors. We are looking for your support as blood donors and/or as volunteers for this free event.

**Please be sure to register in advance this month at:** <http://tiny.cc/tbsblood>

**Questions? Contact:** Alan Novick, our Chief Phlebotomist ([donateblood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:donateblood@tbsneedham.org), or [brotherhood@tbsneedham.org](mailto:brotherhood@tbsneedham.org))



DEC  
25

## Project Ezra - A Mitzvah You'll Never Forget

**Monday, December 25, 2017, at TBS.**

For almost three decades Temple Beth Shalom in partnership with the Needham Community Council has provided Christmas Day dinners to elderly or shut-in Needham neighbors. It takes many hands to make this mitzvah happen. Each year the need seems to increase, so please help us - we cannot do this mitzvah without you. Join fellow Temple Beth Shalom volunteers in bringing smiles and joy to those in need. 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, contact:** Lois Sockol (781-449-1226, [lsockol@comcast.net](mailto:lsockol@comcast.net)) or Anne Braunstein (617-462-2214).



# Where Are All the Babies Coming From?

By Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning

As a member of the Welcome Corps recently commented, “The babies just keep coming!” The Temple is filled with babies and families every day of the week. Stop by any morning and you will find grandparents, nannies, and parents pushing strollers into the building. While all around the country temples are struggling to connect with families with young children, national research teaches us that “Well-designed and well-coordinated programs for parents with young children have the potential to change the Jewish future by engaging many families who might otherwise be lost to the organized Jewish community.” (Wertlieb, Donald and Rosen, Mark, “Inspiring Jewish Connections.”) But how does that work at TBS? Here’s a glimpse into the components that keep those babies coming through our doors.



Reading Room. With repeated experiences, these babies develop a comfort with the temple and positive associations that carry into the years ahead. As one family put it, “Temple Beth Shalom ... makes incorporating Judaism into our children’s lives seamless. Our children feel so comfortable at TBS and it is because we spend so much quality time with them there, enjoying the different activities.”

## Talented Educators Bring Rich Content and Ongoing Support

Expertly led by TBS Parenting and Child Development Specialists and long-time TBS members Liz Berkman and Dawn Ellis, our “Bumps, Babies and Beyond” program is constantly changing and developing to meet the needs of our community. As Licensed Clinical Social Workers they bring an intense passion for early childhood development and provide families a place to gather and be guided through their journeys of parenthood. When asked about their TBS experience, parents of young children had these reactions: “Dawn is an amazing facilitator! She is so real and creates such a welcoming safe space for parents to connect.” “Liz has been an invaluable resource to us, as she has been very supportive and has put us at ease.” “Dawn and Liz have also been invaluable resources for us as parents. If it weren’t for how warm and welcoming they have been to me and my children - I am not sure we would have joined TBS as we live much closer to other temples. The community at TBS has been worth the extra time in the car.”

## Broad Spectrum of Classes for Children Ages 0-5

Our “Bumps, Babies & Beyond” program, founded in 2014, is dedicated to providing our TBS community with the tools and resources they need to raise healthy, successful children. With 350 families participating over the past year the classes offer thoughtful, informative and quality pregnancy, parenting, and child development classes. A TBS connection develops right from the start with our “Mama to Be” class for pregnant moms. It continues as children grow and parents face new parenting challenges as children begin to crawl, run, and climb in the “Rumblers and Tumblers” class you might have seen in action in the Community Hall.

## Special Events Are Opportunities for the Whole Family to Celebrate

“We came to our first Tot Shabbat last month and our kids felt super comfortable dancing and singing along. They aren’t necessarily always like that so we were pleasantly surprised. A highlight for us was when our sons started cheering as if they were at a concert. They were so happy and had such fun. What a wonderful way to introduce them to Judaism.” We gather for traditional holiday activities like hamentaschen baking and menorah making as well as for chesed (caring) and tikkun olam (social action) projects. Stop by on a Friday night to see the little dancers in action! Or on a Sunday morning next month as they bop to Chanukah songs with Cantorial Intern DJ Fortine in our

## Connections

Families who have connected to Temple Beth Shalom through one of our early childhood programs make up over 70% of our new members this year. This makes them the fastest growing segment of our temple family. The babies quickly grow up as part of the temple family. Children born after our very first “Mama to Be” class nearly four years ago are now continuing their TBS connection as students in our Children’s Center.

## Want to learn more?

If you are interested in getting connected, please sign up for our email list (of over 1,000 others with young children!) [bit.ly/TBSlist2017](http://bit.ly/TBSlist2017) or contact us!

# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Honoring Their Service

We pay homage to those congregants and their family members who served in the military. While their experiences were in the past, we know that those memories stay with them throughout their lives. To our veterans – both those included below and those who are not – thank you for your service and for the freedoms and privileges you helped to preserve for future generations.

James E. Cipriano, Nancy Serwer's father and Jeremy Serwer's father-in-law - a great salesman - convinced the Army Air Force he was older than the 17 years he was and became a B-17 bombardier (Jeremy's memory) or machine gunner (Nancy's memory).



*James E. Cipriano*

He probably did both. He once described that during his time in Europe – the last nine months or so of the war – they were virtually bombing at will with no resistance. Pretty much all German anti-aircraft fire had been silenced by then.

Zachary A. Serwer, Jeremy's father, was classified 4F (medical deferment). However, a talented writer, he worked for the U.S. Navy doing just that. Later, with both writing and photography skills, he did public relations work in the 1950's for the new State of Israel. How sorely that's needed today!

On one of those trips he was peering out his King David Hotel window when a sniper's fire from the Old City (Jordan at the time) missed him by inches.

Nahum A. Bernstein, Jeremy's stepfather, served in the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA. Nahum was able to create codes that could not be broken, plus other spy craft, and became an instructor to spies at a secret base on Catalina Island. Later, from 1945-47, Nahum was one of several hundred key American players working clandestinely for a Jewish State: acquiring and shipping surplus WWII arms (illegally) to Palestine; training underground Haganah candidates in espionage; acquiring fighter planes and getting them to Jewish Palestine; and ultimately spying on Arab and British UN delegates to assist turning the 1947 vote towards the Jewish State.

Altogether, seven family members served during World War II and two served and fought in Iraq.

**Nancy and Jeremy Serwer**

I grew up with a spare leg in the closet. My 91-year-old father, Sidney Novak, served in Patton's army. He was one of the first four sent into Frankfurt, Germany, as a scout. He was captured by a Nazi officer, and beaten once the officer saw on his dog tags that he was Jewish. Fortunately, my father was rescued by the other scouts. He went on to lead a squad into Germany. He was severely wounded three weeks before the war ended, and a month before his 19th birthday.



*Sidney Novak*

He had to spend four years post-war in hospital, and is now a proud amputee veteran. He has led a full life as a purchasing agent for a laboratory, a part-time cantorial soloist, a husband, father, and grandfather, while also giving back through many volunteer endeavors.

**Trina Novak**

I served at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Walter Reed Army Hospital. I received the most exciting care package when my son, Matthew David Rosen, was born at the Walter Reed Army Hospital.

**Seymour Rosen**  
**Captain 1964-1967**





*Richard Pearlman*

My uncle, Richard Pearlman, served in the army in Europe during WWII. When he came home stateside, he was assigned to an army base somewhere in the South.

During this time, his mother (my maternal grandmother) passed away from breast cancer. My uncle wanted to attend the synagogue in town on Shabbat evening to say Yahrzeit for his

mother. However, he was not allowed off the base alone; he had to be accompanied by his immediate superior, his captain. The captain agreed to accompany my uncle even though the captain was not Jewish.

The two attended Shabbat services. At the conclusion of services, they were invited to the Oneg, where they were served pastries, cakes, cookies, and coffee on bone china by the ladies of the congregation.

As they returned to the base, the captain turned to my uncle and asked him if they serve refreshments like this after every Friday night service. When he was told that they probably do, the captain told my uncle he would be more than happy to accompany him to any future Friday night service.

**Roberta Gerson**

While serving aboard the USS Leyte, we pulled into Norfolk, Virginia.

The captain announced that any Jewish personnel who wanted to go to services were permitted to board the USS Hornet, a carrier that was also in port, and there was a Rabbi onboard.

I attended the service and the Rabbi asked me if I would like to have services on my ship. I told him that I would and he appointed me the Rabbi.

Now when I pull my car into the parking lot at the Temple, I park in the "Rabbi Emeritus" spot.

**Joe Sands**

During WWII I was trained to be a machinist, and I was assigned to an aircraft carrier whose flight deck was loaded with disassembled Air Force P-47 Fighter aircraft. There was a very old Navy Curtiss SOC-1 aircraft mounted on a catapult on the port (left) side of the carrier. I am not even sure it was airworthy, as we never tested the engine.

The exciting part of the twenty-seven day trip across the Pacific ocean to Brisbane, Australia, was target practice every day, releasing five-foot diameter target balloons on both the starboard and port sides to shoot at. No one ever hit those targets, even though the amount of bullets fired from the anti-aircraft guns was enormous! I don't believe a mosquito could have penetrated the wall of bullets shot into the sky from the guns on both sides of the ship!!

Furthermore, we were sitting ducks to be torpedoed by submarines. We never did receive a Navy destroyer that should have accompanied us to prevent a torpedo from sinking us! Fortunately, none ever showed up, but we diligently searched for them 24 hours a day. I quickly realized the quandary we were in, and slept on the flight deck. After five nights of getting just a little sleep, I was so tired I decided that, if my days in the US Navy were limited, and my time might be up soon and I might be lost at sea, then I would forgo sleeping on the flight deck, sleep soundly in my bunk, and accept what was going to happen. We did reach Brisbane safely, and the trip remains a bad memory! After we docked I was transferred to a large Navy repair base in Cairns, Australia, where I happily repaired damaged ships.

**Harvey Swack**

My husband, Aaron (Ron) Sockol, was drafted into the U.S. Army in April 1954, shortly after he graduated from Babson Institute (now Babson College), and a month after he started his first job for Dennison Manufacturing in Framingham. We were married in June, after his basic training at Fort Dix, N.J. Four days later he was sent to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, to begin his training as a medic, and went on to serve from 1954-1956. I remained in Massachusetts to complete my senior year at Boston University.



**Lois Sockol**

## FEATURE ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

December 7, 1941: I was eleven when my father (WWI) got our family's encyclopedia and showed his three sons where Pearl Harbor was in the Pacific.

Fast forward to October 1951, when I was drafted out of school during the Korean War and enlisted in the USAF as a private in January, 1952. After basic training, I was sent to dental school at Great Lakes, IL, a Naval training base. I learned the rest by watching. I served on a B-47 base in Kansas, and was then sent to the Alaskan Air Command (AAC) in January 1954 as a medic in oral surgery and, when needed, assisted in other areas of medicine.

Getting there was great fun - five days on a WWII ship converted to a troop ship during the Korean War. You would eat (if you could) by standing up while the trays rolled down the table due to the northern winter Pacific seas. We bunked with 30 other guys in a three-tiered space... great fun!

I was stationed in a remote area of northern Alaska not far from USSR - a territory then, not a state, with mostly wooden sidewalks in Nome. At the AAC the runways were uphill going out and downhill on the return. The weather was very cold for four to five months of the year - average temperature around 25 below, and many times 40-45 below.

Memorable moments in Alaska:

- Helped identify pilots who had crashed by using their dental charts.
- Instructed by a doctor to revive a soldier by administering a heart injection, but he was gone before I could "use the needle."
- Assisted on an appendix operation, and delivered a baby.
- Got through two air raid warnings.
- Approved for flying status to service.

On one occasion, I was playing cards with several men; one was a sergeant from Arkansas, who mentioned he never met a Jew and didn't care to meet one. I stopped the game and asked him - quietly - to step outside. As a former member of my high school varsity boxing team, we had a 'brief' meeting; he never mentioned Jewish people again.

**Richard Aronson, USAF - 1952-55**



After graduating from Penn State in 1955, I went to work at IBM in Endicott, New York as an industrial engineer. In 1956 I was drafted into the Army with the rank of a Specialist (SP3), a step up from private. My basic training was completed in Fort Hood, Texas. My time in the US Army was spent in the tank corp of the 3rd Armored Division outside Frankfurt, Germany, where I served as the assistant to the Commanding Officer. This assignment was given to be because I was one of the few college graduates at that time. My duties included verifying time schedules for tank maneuvers, handling all correspondence, and being his driver, which made me responsible for his attendance at all important meetings and maneuvers in the field.

Our orders were to handle all the communications for the Tank Division in the field. We were watching and monitoring the USSR-Russian military in Germany. Our unit was always on alert, and we would usually begin alerts around 3:00 - 4:00 AM. Our tents and ponchos for sleeping were in very close proximity to the tank area, and we were subjected to deafening noise when they revved up. This had a severe effect on my hearing.

Once in the field, I was one of the side gunners inside a tank. This was shortly after the Korean War, so there was always the fear of our unit being shipped out, but luckily this never happened. I received an honorable discharge in 1958.

**Alan Glou, SP3, 3rd Armored Division**



I served in the US Navy from August 1967 to December 1969. After Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned as an Ensign, and continued on to Navy flight school. After many hours in the T-34B basic training aircraft, it was clear that I was not a very good pilot. The Navy left me in Northwest Florida to serve as the Division Officer for two Divisions at the Naval Air Station in Milton, Florida. Along the way, my wife Beth and I were married. We spent the first year and a half of our marriage in what was then called “The Redneck Riviera.” Offered an opportunity for an early release from active duty in 1969, I was soon a civilian again and living in Brookline.

My time in the Navy taught me a lot about leadership, and about myself. The US Marine Corps Drill Instructors who ran the Pensacola Navy OCS informed us each day that we were “a bunch of draft dodgers” and if we’d had any guts, we’d have been in a rice paddy in Vietnam with an M-16. I think we all know how that worked out. However, I did learn a lot about focus and attention to detail... qualities which served me very well when I was serving as a Special Agent of the FBI.

Here is a photo of the newly-commissioned Ensign Gamel in uniform, and my fiancé (and now wife of 49 years) Beth Cohn Gamel.



**John Gamel**

I was an active duty Air Force officer from 1973-75. My principal work area was designing turbine engine controls. My “important” experience and care package occurred during my AF ROTC summer camp before my junior year, summer, 1968.

Growing up in a modest home in Jewish Mattapan, I had never traveled much. I was sent to Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, for ROTC training. (Maxwell AFB is the larger, well known base in the area.) As a twenty-year-old former Hebrew school attendee, I was somewhat committed to Judaism.

Without elaborating, life with 249 other cadets (of whom, one was Jewish) was different. A small base, Gunter did not have a Jewish anything but offered a chauffeur to take the two Jewish cadets to a Montgomery shul on Friday evenings. While I was an irregular service participant at home, the opportunity to escape from the military for two hours, once per week, appealed to me. I was deeply moved that the ritual and melodies were similar to those of my experiences at Congregation Kehillath Jacob, Mattapan (later Newton and memorialized at Temple Aliyah, Needham). While I hesitate to call myself observant, I became committed to Judaism and Jewish causes.



Judy’s and my experiences with the Wright-Patterson AFB Jewish Community were uplifting and, upon leaving the Air Force in 1975, we have continually participated in Needham synagogues and Yiddish life.

Military life is a million rules. Immediately upon arrival, the core commander lectured the cadets and emphasized that we should not have any food in our living quarters and that we should not receive any food packages from home. Before I left home, my Jewish mother had very thoughtfully sent out my cookies care package, which arrived the morning after the big directions. I confessed to the commander, who ordered that I share it with the other cadets and that nothing remain after that evening. Bottom line: No harm done. Mom loved me.

**Marc Weinberg**



## FEATURE ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

I proudly served in the United States Air Force Strategic Air Command from 1969 to 1972 during the height of the Vietnam and Cold War.

Fifty-six years ago, on February 3, 1961, a U.S. Air Force EC-135C took off from Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, with a crew of about 36 on board. Their mission was, quite simply, to wait for a nuclear war to break out. This airplane, named “Looking Glass,” was designed as a mobile airborne command headquarters capable of coordinating all American strategic and nuclear military assets in the event of an attack by the Soviets. The idea was that if a Soviet sneak attack wiped out the usual centers of control and command, the military staff aboard Looking Glass – which was always airborne and in motion – could take over and coordinate a counterattack. This must have been a cheerful job.

There was, of course, more than one Looking Glass aircraft. The point was to have at least one Looking Glass plane in the air all the time, every moment of every day, just in case the Russians chose one precise moment to destroy the world. From that day, February 3, 1961, there was a Looking Glass plane aloft continuously for the next 29 years, until July 24, 1990, when the Air Force thought the Cold War had warmed up enough to allow the previously unthinkable situation of letting a Looking Glass plane sit on the ground for a change (but still fully staffed and ready to take off).

Along with Looking Glass, the United States had B-52 Bombers at numerous USAF bases around the country, loaded with



nuclear weapons, sitting at the end of runways on alert with their engines running and ready to take off. Looking Glass, along with the President of the United States, would be able to tell these B-52 Bombers to launch.

Here is how I was involved. After two years of highly specialized technical electronics training, I was assigned to the 17th Bombardment Wing and stationed at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. I was responsible for overseeing the B-52 Bomber's Bomb Navigation System that would be used to deliver a nuclear strike to Russia or any of our Cold War enemies. It was a highly technical, exciting, and very important role for a young 20-year-old (who grew up fast).

While we obviously never dropped a nuclear bomb since WWII, there were many tense moments during my term when we were on the brink (although the public didn't know about most of them).

There is still a Looking Glass program today. We don't know exactly where or what sort of plane is flying the mission (or perhaps waiting on the ground) at any given time, but the concept of a mobile backup nuclear command center remains viable. Right now, as you're reading this, someone somewhere is sitting in a darkened control room in the cabin of an airplane, waiting to take control of a war that has not begun and hopefully never will.

**Henry Mittelman**

I joined the IDF when I was eighteen years old. In the beginning, every soldier goes through a three-month intensive boot camp. The main focus of boot camp was to get all the soldiers into great physical condition and to learn self defense. After boot camp, I was sent to a course where I would learn a specialized skill for my position in the Intelligence Unit. I then served in the Intelligence Unit headquarters as an office manager for a high-ranking general.

**Sabrina Shemesh**



Both excited and nervous, I arrived at IDF Boot Camp in November 1984, when I was 18 years old. At the end of four weeks of basic training, I was shocked and upset to find out that I was being sent for two months of Military Police training. This was my absolute last choice of how to serve my country. I was devastated to find out I would be a part of the military police force.

However, at the end of a grueling training in the mountains near Jerusalem, I was placed at a unit that was located in the center of Tel Aviv. The office I was assigned to was in charge of army investigations. Growing up in a kibbutz, remote from the big city, I was excited to now be living in busy Tel Aviv. It was a fascinating service in which I learned a lot in so many areas.

After six months, I was recruited to become an officer. At the end of the four-month officer training, I was sent to be the second in command of the only Israeli women's prison for Israeli female soldiers. Most of these women were not criminals, but instead had made mistakes and committed small actions that were against strict army rules.

My role was to educate them about Israel, motivate them about their role in the Army, restore their excitement to serve their country, raise their awareness to choices they make, support their needs, and check in with them and their families to make sure all is safe and they can indeed go ahead and complete their service. At times I had to write reports to the army court and recommend changes in their living conditions or change of unit location, and at times, I also had to be a judge in small disciplinary trials against a staff member or a prisoner.

I ended up receiving a special award of excellence from the president of Israel, on Yom Haatzmaut, at the Kotel, during Israel's 38th birthday. As part of this event, I also got to participate in a reunion of all the heroes of Israel's 948 foundation as a state. That special honor will always be an incredible memory for me, as I got to be in a celebration among the most famous and renowned figures in Israel's history, like the late Yitzhak Rabin and other people I learned about in history classes.

I will cherish my two and a half years of army experience as one of the most fundamental milestones of my life. I was impacted and taught by superior officers and mentors, I found some of my best friends during those years, and I learned life lessons that shaped who I am today!

**Liron Riess**

In Israel, with war every few years, nearly everyone's a veteran -- either from military service or time in the reserve (annual military service until age 55). Because Israel is a small country, we all know people who are disfigured or families who have lost children, spouses, and siblings. The Israeli government respects and protects veterans, providing not only extensive and lifelong medical care but also full handicap access to every social, cultural, and educational offering in the country. Reentry into society is the norm for veterans, rather than an unusual and potentially unwelcoming situation.

When I came to the US, it took me a while to understand Veterans Day and what it means to be a veteran in the US. While some are among the more fortunate, those vets who are not able to put their lives together -- due to physical, mental, or emotional trauma -- have not fared as well.

In my work, I see American veterans with headaches from having been near explosions. The impact of the explosions on their brains, which ricochet against their skulls like a basketball being dribbled at the speed of sound, causes impaired brain function marked by premature cognitive decline and an inability to cope with daily emotional situations, to name only a few consequences.

Whereas in the Israeli system vets are immediately treated with top medical care, in the US vets often have to wait months and months to get treatment; by that time, their condition and potential for improvement can worsen. I hope that the US system can change and adjust to provide swift state-of-the-art medical treatment so that those who serve this country can receive care commensurate with the sacrifices they have made.

**Rami Burstein**



## FEATURE ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

Soon after graduating college, a friend at the Draft Board hinted that I was on a very very short list. At that time I had to make a decision. Should I wait to receive the notice and serve for two years in any capacity or base that the Army chose, or did I want to enlist for three years and be guaranteed a specific specialty or my choice of location? I chose the latter.

My first weekend, in Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, I attended chapel, where I learned that the Rabbi was on leave, and his assistant asked for a volunteer to lead the service. Coming from a family where I often did so, I led chapel services during that entire weekend. Upon return from leave, the Rabbi contacted me and offered me the job as his assistant; and for the next three years, while stationed in South Carolina and Germany, I served with four Rabbis.

I was stationed at Fort Jackson from August 1962 to October 1963. While stationed in South Carolina, I was on orders for Vietnam and, I believe, was going to be the first Jewish Chaplain Assistant to be sent there. At the last minute my orders were changed, and I was sent to Wurzburg, Germany, where I was stationed from November 1963 till July 1965.

I arrived in Germany the week that JFK was assassinated. On the Sunday after the assassination, the Post Chapel was opened to the local citizens, and it seemed as if the entire local population came to pay their respects to JFK. It was quite a sight.

Thinking about the people I met and the many countries I visited during my tour, I can honestly say that my military service was a most rewarding experience.

**Shelly Bramson**

I served in the US Army, originally commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in Armor, but later on active duty as a Captain in the Dental Corps. I was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from 1968-1970 during the height of the Vietnam War. While I served the base as a pediatric dentist for dependents, many of my associates, friends, and most of the men passed through the base to Vietnam.

Although I was there before Needham or Temple Beth Shalom was known to us, the succession of a Reform Chaplain (Rabbi) following a year with an Orthodox Chaplain opened our eyes to Reform Judaism and made our membership at TBS starting in 1971 a foregone conclusion. It was one of the few bright moments and military experiences in an otherwise dark time in American history. Temple Beth Shalom has been the spiritual base for our family ever since.

**Stephen Shusterman**



The Temple Beth Shalom Adult Learning Committee presents...

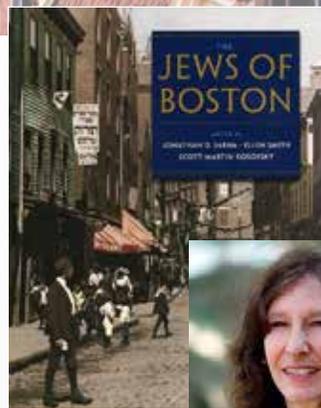
# 2017 Gersten-Hoisington Scholar-In-Residence Weekend

December 1-3, 2017

Join Brandeis University Professor Ellen Smith for an exploration of...

## The Jews of Greater Boston: Past, Present and Future

Building upon last year's Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, during which Professor Stephen Berk engaged us in learning about the history of Jews in America, Professor Smith will focus on the history of Jews in Greater Boston - those born here and those who "emigrated here" at any stage of their lives. Professor Smith will discuss how Boston's Jewish past has helped shaped its present, and will bring special attention to the contemporary and coming issues facing the Jewish community.



**Friday, December 1, Shabbat Evening Service**  
**7:15 PM**

The Jews of Boston, an Historical Perspective

**Saturday Morning, December 2**  
**9:00 AM – 10:15 AM**

Not Your  
Grandparents' Boston

Shifts in the nature of Jewish identity, family, and the role of synagogues and federations.

**Saturday Morning, December 2**  
**10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**

Discussion: Our  
Kids, Our Future

The rise of the millennial generation, their needs and desires for engaging with Judaism.

**Saturday Evening, December 2**  
**7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Antiques Roadshow,  
Jewish Edition &  
Cocktail Party

Join us for a special evening out with friends. Professor Smith will be our curator for the evening to present some interesting Jewish Boston artifacts in photos and slides. Bring your own Jewish artifacts and family heirlooms to be evaluated and shared. We will also have a dedication of a wooden lion sculpture that originated from the Agudas Israel synagogue of Dorchester, donated by former TBS president Norbert Goldstein (1964-65). Enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres and musical entertainment for a memorable adult evening.

**Sunday Morning, December 3**  
**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Family History & Bagel Breakfast

Don't miss this exciting conclusion to our Scholar in Residence Weekend. Professor Smith will recap some of the core topics of discussion from the weekend and present a vision of the future of Jewish Boston. Then, genealogist Marilyn Okonow, Outreach Coordinator for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, will discuss resources and techniques for uncovering your own family history.

## PROFILE

### Meet Professor Ellen Smith, Our TBS Scholar-in Residence

By Robert Markstein, Co-Chair, Adult Learning

#### His-story, Her-story, Your-story—They Matter!

Join us December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for a weekend of exploration with Professor Ellen Smith, beloved teacher and expert in Boston and American Jewish history, as our Scholar-in-Residence.

Ellen will take us on a lively journey through Boston and American Jewish history and life - how we got here and where we want our Jewish lives and communities to go.

“The great thing about history is that it is always ours to make,” Ellen says. “I’m looking forward to sharing our American Jewish past, learning about all of your histories, and thinking together about how we might shape our Jewish futures to be meaningful and fulfilling for generations to come.

“Together we’ll probe the nature of the Boston area Jewish community (it’s weird and different and innovative!); examine how and why the Temple Beth Shalom community has evolved as it has; and explore the contemporary issues of deep interest to Temple Beth Shalom members.”

Ellen is well prepared to take us on this journey. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, she grew up in a three-generation household saturated with a range of Jewish perspective and practice. “My paternal grandmother was orthodox; my maternal grandfather was a secular social activist. I started my early Jewish education in a traditional shul and finished it in a reform congregation.” At Oberlin College Ellen studied ancient Near Eastern religion and archaeology, including two summers on archaeological projects in Israel and Jordan. Graduate school at Boston University saw her studies turn toward larger issues in American religious history.

“I’ve both lived and studied the range of Jewish experience in America,” Ellen observed. “It’s given me a broad platform and perspective from which to understand and analyze the American Jewish community.”

“In Newton, where we live, my husband and I raised our children in a conservative congregation. At Brandeis I teach an international array of students - of all practice traditions - who were born Jewish, are Jews-by-choice,

and are non-Jews devoted to working on behalf of the Jewish people. Our Jewish communities and lives are enriched by the great array of Jewish identities and Jewish practices around us. They give us and our children multiple ways to connect to and take into our beings the beauty of Jewish teachings, and the committed ways of being-in-the-world that are the Jewish heritage of us all.”



Ellen looks forward to learning from all of us as well. “I’m incredibly honored to be asked to be your scholar-in-residence. During our time together in December we will explore the history of Jews in America - how and why our communities and self-understanding have evolved as they have. We’ll use the weekend to explore contemporary issues in Jewish life - issues that you identify - and look at a variety of historical and contemporary responses that might help us shape our own visions and responses for the future. And we’ll have fun! Your stories, your interests, objects and photos that are meaningful to you, will be part of our learning together.”

Ellen has served as former Curator of the American Jewish Historical Society and the National Museum of American Jewish History. In 2005 she toured the country as one of the United Jewish Community’s key speakers during the 350-year anniversary celebration of Jews in America. A popular speaker locally and throughout the country, Ellen sits on numerous academic and civic advisory boards, and is past president of Boston’s Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center. She has won honors and awards for her leadership in the Jewish community as both a volunteer and a professional.

Ellen and her husband, Bill Pastuszek, live in Newton. Their daughter Danya, COO of the United Way of Salt Lake City, lives in Pembroke, Ontario, with her husband and two sons. Their son Jon and his wife live in Paris, where Jon is a professional basketball scout in Asia and Europe for the Minnesota Timberwolves. Bill and Ellen live with various pets on long-term loan from their children’s international travels.

# 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 Study Options

**Saturday mornings at TBS, 9:00 - 10:00 AM. No RSVP needed! All are welcome!**

- **Shabbat Morning Torah Study - Led by Rabbi Perlman and Rabbi Markley.** Join us for our very popular weekly discussion of the week's *parashah* (Torah portion).
- **Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah.** Each week Rabbi Bob Orkand will lead us in focusing upon a single Jewish moral or ethical value found in the week's *parashah*. *Note: Final class for 2017 is Dec. 5; class resumes in February 2018.*

## Friday Morning "Pre-Shabbat" Yoga

**Friday mornings at TBS, 8:45 - 9:45 AM, through Dec. 2017. (No yoga on Nov. 10, Dec. 22, and Dec. 29, 2017)**

Join Stephanie Javaheri for a mindful and invigorating yoga flow to build strength and flexibility of body and mind.

## "What's Nu?" - A Monthly Conversation with Rabbi Lenke

**Wednesday mornings at TBS, 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Nov. 1 and Dec. 13, 2017; Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, 2018. RSVP would be helpful, but is not necessary.**

Join with Rabbi Lenke on the first Wednesday of each month and engage in discussion regarding a current event impacting the Jewish community.

## Intermediate Israeli Dancing

**Monday evenings, 7:15 - 9:00 PM at TBS, continuing through the spring.**

## Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Bob Orkand: Religion in American Life - A Short History, Part 1

Mondays, 12:00 to 1:30 PM. (Although the fall class began on Sept. 11, 2017, new students are welcome.)

The history of the United States is almost impossible to understand without an accurate perception of the role that religion played during the nation's founding years.

**To register, contact:** Tiziana Getz, TBS Office Administrator (tgetz@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077).

## Fall Sparks of Insight: "Won't Somebody Please Save Us?!?" The Messiah in Jewish Tradition

**Thursday Evenings: Nov. 2, Nov. 9, and Nov. 16, 2017, 7:30 - 9:00 PM at TBS. (Come even if you missed the first class on Oct. 26.). Led by Rabbi Todd Markley**

With its origins in Biblical times, Jewish tradition has long embraced the concept of a Messiah - a savior who will bring healing, wholeness, and ultimate redemption to our people and to our world. The Rabbis embraced this notion, encoding fervent prayers for the coming of the Messiah into our thrice-daily prayers, and throughout the centuries dozens of false Messiahs have successfully claimed the title for themselves until time proved them wrong. During the darkest periods of our people's lives in Europe, the tradition that salvation embodied in the Messiah would soon arrive was a source of hope.

Yet despite the historical centrality of this concept in Jewish life, many of us do not know what to do with it today. The Messiah has largely been excised from our prayer liturgy, and is not usually a topic of casual conversations at Jewish dinner tables. What might we learn from the voices of our tradition in their struggle with this idea, and how can we make it relevant (dare I say, "motivational" or even "inspirational") in our lives today? Join us... neither previous Jewish learning nor experience being the Messiah is required!

**To register, please contact:** Tiziana Getz, TBS Office Administrator (781-444-0077, tgetz@tbsneedham.org).

## Growing Gratitude, Growing Young Children

By Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning

Arthur C. Brooks' *New York Times* article, "Choose to Be Grateful. It Will Make You Happier" (read at <http://nyti.ms/2yAAMoY>), reminds us how important it is to have an ongoing sense of gratitude: "Evidence suggests that we can actively choose to practice gratitude - and that doing so raises our happiness." While gratitude is on our minds as we approach Thanksgiving, fostering a sense of gratitude is an important part of our TBS Children's Center curriculum year round.

Can such young children be grateful? Yes, they can! You might assume preschoolers are too embedded in an egocentric stage of childhood to understand thankfulness, but with consistent and intentional teaching during the preschool years, we have the pleasure of watching each child's sense of gratitude blossom. In exploring how to cultivate this spirit for ourselves as adults, Brooks writes, "There are concrete strategies that each of us can adopt. First, start with 'interior gratitude,' the practice of giving thanks privately."

### Modeling "Interior Gratitude"

At TBS Children's Center we teach children to express interior gratitude every Friday during our school-wide Shabbat celebrations. Emily Perlman, who leads our weekly services with Rabbi Todd or Rabbi Jay, introduces the practice by modeling the thought process involved in interior gratitude. Emily tells the group of children and their guests a story about something in her own life for which she wants to say thank you and describing how she is putting this item in her thought bubble. This individual, private moment of gratitude continues as Emily asks each child to place a thankful thought in their own thought bubble. The category of the thought changes over time, helping children to stretch their understandings and ideas. Sometimes we focus on nature; sometimes on people in

our lives whom we love. The entire room is quiet as we each think about our own personal gratitude. Visitors are amazed that such young children can successfully engage in meaningful silent prayer in this way and a regular practice of saying thanks has begun.

### Fostering "Exterior Gratitude"

Brooks continues with this suggestion: "Next, move to 'exterior gratitude,' which focuses on public expression." At TBS Children's Center public expression of gratitude takes many different forms. In some classrooms, the children share items for which they are thankful each Monday morning as we greet the new week during the havdalah ceremony or on Fridays as the class lights Shabbat candles. In other classes the children focus on recognizing the kind acts of others and expressing their gratitude to peers. In each class, teachers work to help children develop a regular habit of recognizing and expressing the good things in their lives.

As children move through their years at TBS Children's Center, they experience many different ways of saying thanks and deepening their grateful spirit.



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Ethel Eizengart	Freda Acker	Harold Yampolsky	Max Temkin	Michael Lowitt
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Mannie Green	Harry Bookman	<b>November 17</b>	Theresa Gibgot Voss	Benjamin Perlman
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Trosi Kaplan	Mamie Davis	Samuel Bor	<b>November 24</b>	Susan Schulman
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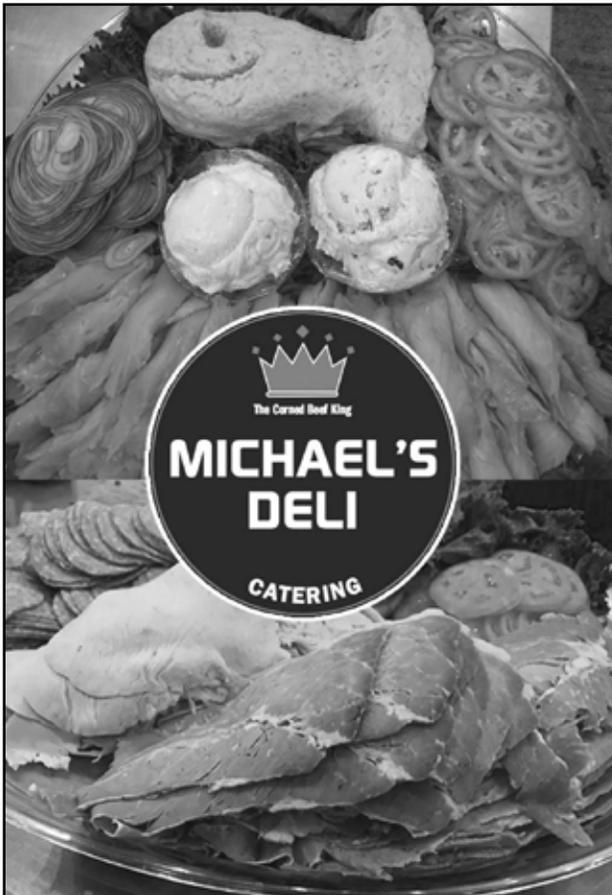


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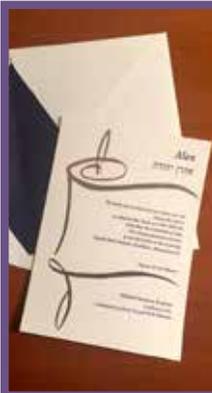
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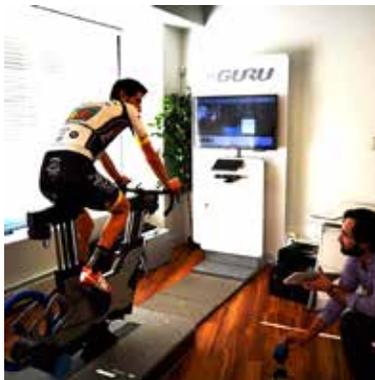
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