

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom – Needham, Massachusetts

March 2024

Adar I/Adar II 5784



Working Jewishly

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Strength and Hope in Joining Together: March for Israel, Washington, D.C.

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On the Cover

"March for Israel" courtesy photo
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From the Editorial Board

There are so many rewarding ways to be Jewish. Supporting, beautifying, and focusing one’s livelihood in support of Jewish causes are all ways our members find to express their love for Israel and fellow Jews. This issue features testimony of others who attended the March for Israel in Washington, D.C. and showcases members whose careers are devoted to Jewish causes, and highlights some who work to keep Israeli soldiers warm. Through worship, culture, connection to Israel, and bonds with one another, we have an abundance of ways to enjoy and support our Jewish heritage.

Adult B. Mitzvah? Tell Us Your Story!

Are you an adult by age but becoming one (again) in Judaism? We’d like to hear your story! What prompted your decision to become an adult b. mitzvah? Are you doing it as part of a class? On your own? Is this an anniversary of an earlier bar, bas, or bat mitzvah or is this the first time for you? Will you celebrate this achievement in any special way? We would like to publish your story in the *Scroll*, along with those of fellow adults becoming b. mitzvah, so please send us your story using 150 words or fewer, and a photo. Deadline: April 15

Ask the Rabbi

Do you have a question you’ve always pondered but never had the chance to ask? This might be your solution! Submit your questions to scroll@tbsneedham.org. Questions will appear anonymously, together with the rabbi’s response, in upcoming issues of the *Scroll*.

Please note: "Ask the Rabbi" is a chance to explore areas related to Judaism. It is not intended for questions about Temple policies, business, or personal questions.

Let Us Hear from You - and/or Join Us!

- We always welcome your input and help. Are there articles you’d like to see included or topics that should be covered? Let us know!
- Might you like to write an article? How about joining us to do editing or layout? Want to help with advertising?

Please email scroll@tbsneedham.org with your ideas, suggestions, or offers to join in the fun of producing the *Scroll*!

By Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board

Welcome New Members

Jacob Cohen and Ana Valente Do Coto and Maya (not yet 1)
Jessica and Jacob Dunn and Morgan (5) and Marni (2)
Sarah and Brett Groper and Dylan (1)
Kaitlin McGrath and Charles Cerlen and Caroline (1)
Abel Samet and Emily Malina and Milo (5) and Cole (2)
Julie and Jeremy Weinberger and Avery (1) and Ethan (not yet 1)

Services in March

All services will be both in person and online for the month of March. An * denotes in person only. Please check the TBS website and emails for livestream links.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 (22 Adar I 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 (22 Adar I 5784)

Torah: *Ki Tisa* Ex. 30:11 - 34:35

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

9:00 AM Torah Study*

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

B. Mitzvah: Stella Solomon and Coby Murstein

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 (28 - 29 Adar I 5784)

5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service

6:15 PM Om Shalom Yoga Service*

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 (29 Adar I 5784)

Torah: *Vayak'heil* Ex. 35:1 - 38:20

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

9:00 AM Torah Study*

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

B. Mitzvah: Sam Singer

B. Mitzvah: Nathaniel List

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 (6 Adar II 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service:

Aliyah L'Rabbanut (Ascent to Rabbinic Leadership)

of Rabbi Elyse Pincus Abrahams

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 (6 Adar II 5784)

Torah: *P'kudei* Ex. 38:21 - 40:38

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

9:00 AM Torah Study*

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

B. Mitzvah: Matthew Geist and Zachary Kravetz

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 (11 Adar II 5784)

B. Mitzvah: Ozi Tasgal

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 (13 Adar II 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 (13 Adar II 5784)

Torah: *Vayikra* Lev. 1:1 - 5:26

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

9:00 AM Torah Study*

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

B. Mitzvah: Leo Fox and Mason Saide

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 (20 Adar II 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 (20 Adar II 5784)

Torah: *Tzav* Lev. 6:1 - 8:36

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service

9:00 AM Torah Study*

9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

B. Mitzvah: Noah Smith and Matthew Zimmerman

Please join the TBS Community for *Minyan*

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

Committee Meetings in March – Stay Involved!

Committees not listed will not meet formally this month.

Committee Name

Adult Learning
ASAI
Brotherhood Board
Communications
Garden Club
Library
Scroll Editorial Board

Date and Time

Wed. March 6, 7:45 PM
Tue. March 26, 7:30 PM
Tue. March 12, 7:15 PM
Thur. March 14, 7:15 PM
Tue. March 5, 7:15 PM
Every Wednesday, 9:30 AM
Tue. March 26, 1:00 PM

Email Contact for Information

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

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

Fighting Antisemitism

"Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all of our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity."

"When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You're talking antisemitism."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



From Our Clergy

Journey of Discovery: Embracing Lifelong Learning in Judaism

By Rabbi Elyse Pincus Abrahams



Watching my son grow, I've become acutely attuned to his developmental milestones – from clapping at nine months to the eagerly anticipated first steps and words. Each passing month marks a new chapter in our lives, much like the roadmap provided by the rabbis in this Mishnah:

At five years of age the study of Scripture; At ten the study of Mishnah; At thirteen subject to the commandments; At fifteen the study of Talmud; At eighteen the bridal canopy; At twenty for pursuit [of livelihood]; At thirty the peak of strength; At forty wisdom; At fifty able to give counsel; At sixty old age; At seventy fullness of years; At eighty the age of "strength"; At ninety a bent body; At one hundred, as good as dead and gone completely out of the world. (Pirkei Avot 5:21)

This Mishnah, written about 2,000 years ago, outlines a structured journey of learning and experiences, setting milestones for different ages. While this Mishnah gives us insight into ancient times, our times happily dictate quite different realities. In the time of the Mishnah, it was quite unusual for people to live as long as they do now, and this text reflects the reality of their time. We are marrying later and enjoying the fullness of years, sometimes for decades beyond seventy. Blessedly, we live in a world where many are outliving the Mishnah's wildest dreams! Modern perspective recognizes that wisdom and learning also don't adhere to a rigid timeline. It was clear to the rabbis that following a specific path of learning allows a person to achieve wisdom and fullness of years at a certain age; nonetheless, in our time, it is not so simple. In our time, wisdom looks different for everyone, and learning is a lifelong endeavor.

This is evident in the journey of ten Temple Beth Shalom members who, since October 2023, have convened weekly to learn the Aleph Bet and Judaica topics – all of which will



culminate in a ritual celebration of becoming an adult b. mitzvah in May! The ten incredible individuals in this group come from different backgrounds, have different experiences, and have different motivations, all which enhance their learning. Some missed the opportunity for a b. mitzvah in their youth, while others seek to infuse new meaning into this significant life event. Others are motivated by learning the Aleph Bet to add extra meaning and understanding to their prayers. Yet, collectively, they share a dedication to lifelong learning, understanding that wisdom is a constant journey, not bound by age. [Editor's note: We look forward to hearing more from these and other adult b. mitzvah. See page 2 for more!]

Being an adult learner is not always easy and takes a willingness to be vulnerable to what we don't know. This remarkable group embraces this challenge, dedicating a year to shared exploration and learning. May their inspiring journey remind us all that learning is a lifelong endeavor, a path that each of us can pursue at any point in life!



The Room Where It Happens



By Wendy Gutterson, Congregational President

Each month, our boardroom hosts the TBS Board of Trustees meetings, where our volunteer and professional leadership team comes together to design, discuss, and help enact the initiatives and programs that make our community so vibrant and inviting. The truth is, there are many rooms where it happens, where TBS members come to participate in shaping our congregation, contributing to all that makes our community special. In this month’s column, I thought I would share a bit about what’s happening in the room when the board meets. It is a labor of love, and I feel privileged to welcome you to this room.

As a starting point, the Board of Trustees and professional staff are guided by the four pillars of our TBS 2020 Vision Statement:

- I. Deepening Personal Connections
- II. Creating Positive Change in the World
- III. Strengthening Operational Infrastructure
- IV. Ensuring Financial Health and Strength of Congregation

None of these principles exists on its own, and none is a “one and done” idea. The work is ongoing, the work evolves, and the work we do is always grounded in our community.

One example is the board responsibility for overseeing our annual operating budget. We do this in two ways. On a monthly basis, the board reviews our profit and loss statement, balance sheet, key financial metrics, and cash flow statement. We receive routine updates regarding membership, philanthropy, and our investments. Special projects and expenditures are discussed and approved by the board. As we do each year, the board also focuses on financial planning through our budget planning process – a multi-month process which includes financial projections based on current and past experience. Our professional senior team and lay leaders work closely each year to produce a budget that meets the needs of our community. Next, the budget is reviewed by the Finance Committee, then by the Board of Trustees, and ultimately is brought to the Annual Meeting (June 13 at 7:15pm – please mark your calendar) for a vote taken by adult members of the congregation who are present.

Additional discussions in the boardroom focus on our space usage and future needs. In addition to our worship space, we are continually considering the ways our building is used. By analyzing our current student enrollment, we can predict our classroom usage for the next several years. We are focusing on opportunities to maximize our existing space through creative sharing and optimal scheduling. Our building is busy with our many educational and social programs, and all of these are considerations as we focus on opportunities to deepen personal connections and create positive change in the world. Finally, our board has working groups focusing on staffing; they consider how to best support faculty, who beautifully support our learning programs, and our administrative and leadership team, who provide the organizational infrastructure allowing for our communal success.

While there is much to be done, we all know that many hands make light work. Our Temple is thriving because of the work of our outstanding clergy, our fantastic teachers and administrators, and our amazing volunteers who serve on the board and on so many committees and groups. If you can picture yourself in a room where it happens, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We have a spot waiting for you.

L'Shalom,
Wendy



B. Mitzvah

Stella Solomon, Saturday, March 2

School: The Rashi School

Interests: Stella is very active in Rashi's theater program. She also loves music, singing, her friends, and her dog, Tugg!

Mitzvah Project: Stella raised awareness about "period poverty" at school and initiated a collection drive for the non-profit organization Dignity Matters.

Coby Murstein, Saturday, March 2

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Coby enjoys football, basketball, and baseball.

Mitzvah Project: Coby sorted through old clothing and toys to donate to other kids.

Samuel Singer, Saturday, March 9

School: Dedham Country Day School

Interests: Sam loves playing hockey and video games. He enjoys his summers at Camp Manitou.

Mitzvah Project: Sam volunteered at the Skating Academy's Adaptive Skating Program, teaching skating skills to kids with special needs.

Nathaniel List, Saturday, March 9

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Nathaniel enjoys playing baseball, basketball, snowboarding, and video games. He loves spending his summers at Camp Tel Noar.

Mitzvah Project: Nathaniel volunteered with Challenger Baseball, assisting younger athletes with disabilities as they learned how to play baseball.

Matthew Geist, Saturday, March 16

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Matty loves all things sports, especially baseball, basketball, skiing, tennis, hanging out with friends, and summers at Camp Tel Noar.

Mitzvah Project: Matty volunteered at Athletes Unlimited to encourage kids and adults to be able to play sports in an inclusive atmosphere.

Zachary Kravetz, Saturday, March 16

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: ZK lives and breathes football, but loves all sports.

Mitzvah Project: ZK is donating a percentage of his bar mitzvah gifts to a shelter that finds dogs homes.

Ozi Tasgal, Thursday, March 21

School: Oak Hill Middle School

Interests: Ozi excels in all kinds of activities, but his passions are video games, hockey, and his dog, Laila!

Mitzvah Project: Ozi is working with animals, particularly dogs in need of special attention.



Leo Fox, Saturday, March 23

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Leo plays clarinet in the Pollard Wind Ensemble, has a black belt in Kung Fu, and loves his pet snake.

Mitzvah Project: Leo volunteered at Daily Table, a nonprofit grocery store that supports families in need.

Mason Saide, Saturday, March 23

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Mason's favorite activity is skiing. He loves to ski competitively with the Gould race team at Sunday River.

Mitzvah Project: Mason is raising money by selling cookies for Maine Adaptive at Sunday River, which helps disabled individuals learn to ski.

Noah Smith, Saturday, March 30

School: The Rashi School

Interests: Noah loves sports like football, basketball, and skiing. He likes playing chess, Rubik's cubing, and drawing.

Mitzvah Project: Noah volunteered with Team Impact to help people with serious illnesses and disabilities become honorary members of collegiate sports teams.

Matthew Zimmerman, Saturday, March 30

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Matthew loves to ski, compete in American Ninja Warrior, and rock out on the guitar.

Mitzvah Project: Matthew raised funds to help families who lost all of their food in the Maui wildfires.

Hats for Israel - Especially Now

By Margie Glou

On October 7, we were glued to our television sets watching in disbelief the devastation that Hamas was inflicting on innocent Israelis. Our hearts were broken, and our immediate reaction was, "What can I do to help?"

Although we could not go to Israel in person, we knew that there was something we could do at home to help the brave IDF soldiers who were on the front lines. For the past several years, our Knitting Mavens have been diligently knitting "Hats for Israeli Soldiers." These black hats are worn under the soldiers' helmets, helping to keep them warm. Our contact in Israel received them by mail and from Rabbi Jay during several of his trips there. See the January 2022 issue of the Scroll for more information on the Knitting Mavens at TBS.

In response to the current need and our recent request, over 50 hats have been knitted and sent to Israel. Bobbi Niss, Lesley Nemser, and Margie Glou have lovingly coordinated this undertaking.

If you are interested in knitting a hat, please contact Margie Glou, mglou@comcast.net.

Soldiers at the Michael Levin Base in Jerusalem who have received our hats



March Highlights

High Tea With Sisterhood

Sunday, March 3, 2:30-4:30 PM, Vintage Tea & Cake Co., Belmont

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

Register: t-b-s.me/hightea

Cost: \$40

Contact: Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Confronting Antisemitism: It's Not Just a Jewish Issue

Sunday, March 3, 5:00-7:00 PM, TBS

At My Neighbor's Table Series & Temple Beth Shalom present an Interfaith Potluck Conversation on "Confronting Antisemitism: It's Not Just a Jewish Issue" with special guest Rabbi Ron Fish, Interim Director of ADL's New England Region.

Join us for a potluck dinner and conversation on how we can bring ourselves closer to a larger, more inclusive community.

Please plan to bring vegetarian small bites for 8.

Register: t-b-s.me/table

Contact: Gary Goldman at asai@tbsneedham.org

Book Discussion: Bari Weiss's *How to Fight Antisemitism*

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30-9:00 PM, Online

Join ASAI for a guided discussion of National Jewish Book Award winner *How to Fight Antisemitism* by Bari Weiss. We will also take a look at the fascinating reference book *A Brief and Visual History of Antisemitism* by Israel Bitton. You need not read the Bitton book cover to cover to participate but may find familiarity with the work helpful. This discussion is part of the Massachusetts Intersynagogue Antisemitism Task Force.

Register: t-b-s.me/bookdiscussion

Contact: Gary Goldman at asai@tbsneedham.org

Wine & Cheese, Women & Torah

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Please join TBS Sisterhood for Wine & Cheese, Women & Torah with Rabbi Elyse. Look at familiar Torah stories from the women's often untold perspective and through the lens of women whose contributions are too often omitted from our commentary. Join us for a lively discussion; you're sure to learn something new!

Register: t-b-s.me/WomenAndTorah

Contact: Diane Novick and Barbara Pack at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org



History of Modern Israel

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 7:15-8:45 PM, TBS

The primary objective of our course is to help provide foundational knowledge about Israel's modern history, particularly as it relates to the history of Zionism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and what has occurred in the aftermath of October 7th. The interactive class will invite thoughtful discussion and will explore key source material. Participants will encounter important, oftentimes contrasting, viewpoints expressed by Israeli historical figures. The subjects include varying perspectives regarding the nature of Israel as a sovereign state, the peoples who inhabit the state, and its neighbors.

Instructors: **Jonathan Golden** (Shalom Hartman Institute) and **Yoni Kadden** (Chair, History Department at Gann Academy)

Register: t-b-s.me/modernisrael

Contact: Jessica Baim at jbaim@tbsneedham.org

Tikkun Olam Shabbat & TBS Community Dinner

Friday, March 8, 6:15 PM service, 7:30 PM dinner, TBS

Come celebrate *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World) at the Community Dinner! Join us in prayer at evv Shabbat services, followed by Shabbat dinner to mark the dedication and commitment of our Temple community for caring for and standing up for those in need.

At TBS, our *Tikkun Olam* community is made up of Social Action, *Tzedek* (Social Justice), Environmental Action, the Antisemitism Awareness Initiative, Refugee Resettlement Initiative and many other subcommittees doing excellent work in areas including Housing Justice, Criminal Justice, Voter Engagement, Racial Justice, Reproductive Rights, the Daughters of Abraham book club, and supporting our neighbors' needs in a variety of ways. YOU are helping to make a difference in people's lives, and we thank you for your ongoing efforts.

In alignment with Tikkun Olam, please consider bringing a donation for the Needham Community Council of unexpired coffee, tea, breakfast cereal, fruit cups and/or dried fruit. We will be collecting your items as you enter the sanctuary for the 6:15 service. Also, during the community dinner you will have the opportunity to make cards for Israeli soldiers.

Register: t-b-s.me/marchdinner

Contact: Craig Lustig at clustig@tbsneedham.org

Havdalah Rosh Chodesh

Saturday, March 9, 5:30-6:30 PM, Offsite

Join us for a special Havdalah Rosh Chodesh. Rabbi Elyse will lead us in a fun and meaningful service at a private home in Needham (location given the day prior).

Register: t-b-s.me/roshchodesh

Contact: Sandy Cisternelli and Stacey Smalley at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Needham's Art in Bloom

Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM and Sunday, March 10, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM, Needham Public Library

Needham's Art in Bloom is back at the Needham Public Library for its 16th year. You are invited to view 50 Needham High School students' artwork interpreted in flowers by Beth Shalom Garden Club with participation from Kalmia and Needham Garden Club. There will also be floral arrangements available for a silent auction. Bring the family and friends and enjoy a wonderful way to start the season of spring!

Contact: Garden Club at gardenclub@tbsneedham.org



March Highlights continued...

TBS Challah Series: ❤️ Big Bake with the Challah Prince!

Sunday, March 10, 12:00 PM or 6:30 PM, TBS

Come together to knead and braid with the Challah Prince while building community connections and raising money for United Hatzalah. The Challah Prince (Idan Chabasov) grew up in Tel Aviv and has always been an artist. With a background in professional dancing, video production, and art, his mission is to bring art into the baking world and demonstrate the beauty of every piece of challah. As part of his spring North American tour, the Challah Prince is coming to TBS to lead a workshop where participants will create loaves of challah as beautiful as works of art! View Idan's challah and learn more about him on [Instagram \(@challahprince\)](#).



These workshops are open to adults and teens (ages 13+). We are offering special priority registration for TBS members through March 1; after that, we will open remaining spots to others in the Greater Boston Jewish community. The Challah Prince is an international sensation, and his sessions across the globe typically sell out quickly. Get your spot today!

Register: t-b-s.me/challahprince

Cost: \$36 pp for TBS members; \$54 pp for non-members

Contact: Rachel Happel at rhappel@tbsneedham.org

5 Tips for Thriving in Perimenopause and Beyond

Wednesday, March 13, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Join Sisterhood to educate yourself on perimenopause and beyond with Hormone Coach Kathy Fritz.

Register: t-b-s.me/hormonecoach

Contact: Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Service of *Aliyah L'Rabbanut* – Ascent to Rabbinic Leadership at TBS

Friday, March 15, 6:15 PM, TBS

Join us for a most joyful evening as we formally welcome Rabbi Elyse, Harry, and Gideon to our TBS community! During our service, we will ritually celebrate Rabbi Elyse and her ascent to sacred service at TBS. This Shabbat will feature special guests, blessings, music, and spirit as we mark this historic moment in the life of our community. A festive oneg will make this evening extra sweet!

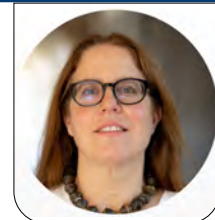
Contact: Rabbi Jay at jperلمان@tbsneedham.org



TBS Welcomes Rabbi Dalia Marx for an Expanded Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM, TBS

All are welcome as scholar, author, and teacher Rabbi Dalia Marx leads us in a fascinating exploration of the Jewish holiday cycle. Rabbi Marx, professor at the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, is spending a short time in the U.S., and we are blessed that she is able to visit with us. Rabbi Marx will be teaching from the research she has done that led to her critically celebrated book *From Time to Time*. In its pages, she offers a distinctively Israeli, feminist, progressive Jewish approach to Judaism's framing of the year. Copies will be available for purchase (with payment after Shabbat) on that day. We hope you are able to join us! Bagels, spreads, coffee, and juice will be served. No RSVP necessary.



* Please note that our regular Shabbat Morning Torah Study will resume the following week, on March 23rd.

Contact: Rabbi Elyse at epincusabrahams@tbsneedham.org



Garden Club Triclub Program

Tuesday, March 19, 7:15 PM, TBS

Beth Shalom Garden Club along with Kalmia and Needham Garden Clubs will present Jimmy Guzman at our annual Tri-Club program. Jimmy Guzman of JNG Event Consulting has a wealth of experience in the hotel, catering, and floral event industries. He has exhibited and given programs and classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. He is known for his spectacular designs in many venues. You will not be disappointed. For questions and registration, email gardenclub@tbsneedham.org.

Contact: Garden Club at gardenclub@tbsneedham.org



Recurring Events

Pre-Shabbat Yoga

Fridays, March 1, 8, 22, 29, 9:00-10:00 AM, TBS and online

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

Drop in at TBS for the in-person class, or join in via Zoom at t-b-s.me/preshabbatyoga; no registration is necessary.

Contact: Stephanie Javaheri at yoga@tbsneedham.org



Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

Saturdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:15-10:15 AM, TBS and online

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

Join us in person at TBS or drop in online at t-b-s.me/findingvalues.

Contact: Jessica Baim at jbaim@tbsneedham.org



Israeli Dancing

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 7:00-8:30 PM, TBS

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

Contact: Emily Perlman at eperlman@tbsneedham.org

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



Recurring Events continued...

Sisterhood Mah Jongg

Thursdays, March 7, April 4, May 2, 7:15-9:15 PM, TBS

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

Register: t-b-s.me/mahjongg

Contact: Holli Bassin and Abby Harmon at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Om Shalom Yoga Service

Friday, March 8, 6:15-7:30 PM, TBS

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



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

Register: t-b-s.me/omshalom

Contact: Jessica Baim at jbaim@tbsneedham.org

Community Shabbat Hike

Saturdays, March 9, April 13, May 11, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM, Offsite

Join fellow TBS members for a hike in the woods! Designed for adults and teens, these hikes will range from 3-5 miles and will include time for personal reflection, community connection, and opportunities to experience awe at the wonders of the natural world. Specific locations for each date will be shared with those who register. Hikes take place “drizzle or shine” but cancel for heavy rain or other extreme weather conditions.

Register: t-b-s.me/shabbathikes

Contact: Rachel Happel at rhappel@tbsneedham.org

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

March 10, April 14, May 9, 12:00-1:00 PM, Online

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

Register: t-b-s.me/panim

Contact: Rabbi Perlman at jperlman@tbsneedham.org



Moms Supporting Moms

Thursdays, March 14, April 11, May 9, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

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

Register: t-b-s.me/moms

Contact: Jackie Waller, Liz Webb Greene, and Michelle Hoffman at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org.

Breakfast Food and Bag Lunch Drive-Up Collection for Homeless Shelters

Fridays, March 15, April 5, May 10, 9:15-9:45 AM, TBS parking lot

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

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

Donate any of the following: bag lunches, bottles of water, juice boxes, condiments, breakfast items including muffins, individual-size cereal boxes, yogurts, fruit cups, or ground coffee. Between 9:15 and 9:45AM, we will be ready to unload your items from your car as you drive up.

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

Register: t-b-s.me/baglunch

Contact: socialaction@tbsneedham.org

Sisterhood Canasta

Thursdays, March 21, April 18, May 16, 7:15-9:15 PM, TBS

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

Register: t-b-s.me/canasta

Contact: Holli Bassin or Abby Harmon at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Save the Date

Sisterhood Passover Rosh Chodesh

Sunday, April 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, TBS

Join us for a joyful brunch to celebrate Passover and Rosh Chodesh with our Sisterhood community.

Register: t-b-s.me/SHPassover

Deadline: March 31

Cost: \$10

Contact: TBS Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org



Save the Date continued...

Alison Campbell's Container Designs

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Alison Campbell of South Natick's landscaping and container gardening company will present beautiful container designs that reflect the changing seasons, using interesting plant material with color and texture. Check out her website at Alison Campbell Design.

Register: email Garden Club for registration:

Cost: Free for Garden Club members, \$10 for guests.

Contact: Garden Club at gardenclub@tbsneedham.org



The Temple Beth Shalom community
invites you to celebrate

L'Chaim

Honoring
20 YEARS
with the
**Perlman
Family**

Saturday, May 4, 2024

6:00 - 10:00 PM

Temple Beth Shalom

Cocktail Attire

RSVP by April 1

For tickets: t-b-s.me/lchaim24



If you have questions about L'Chaim,
please contact us at
lchaim@tbsneedham.org
or 781-444-0077 ext 58



Working Jewishly

Whether working with children or adults, for profit or not, many TBS members bring their talents to Jewish organizations. Enjoy learning about their careers and those they serve.

Bernice Behar

I have worked at Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JF&CS) as the Director of the Family Table food pantry program since 2010. I love to cook, and I’m very interested in nutrition. I also believe that everyone should have access to healthy food, so this job has been the perfect fit for me. Family Table provides food for people who keep kosher and also for many who don’t. Most of our clients are Jewish, but we provide food for anyone in need. It feels very gratifying to be able to help people in this way. And every day brings some new challenge – though most not as dramatic as adapting to a pandemic! I really enjoy seeing people from the TBS community volunteer at Family Table. I love seeing these two important “homes” of mine come together as we engage in *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World).



Margie Bogdanow



I have been working in the Jewish community for almost 40 years. My roles have included time at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JF&CS), the Jewish Community Center (JCC), Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), Hebrew College, and the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). My focus has been supporting and educating adults (educators, youth engagement professionals, parents, and grandparents) to make a positive difference in the lives of the young people around them. I have always believed that the Jewish community and Jewish wisdom have much to offer all of us as we navigate our world. I am now serving as the Senior Advisor to the BeWell Initiative, a partnership between Jewish Federations of North America and the Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies. BeWell works with human service organizations and federations across the country to better equip the Jewish community with tools, resources, and training to support the mental health and overall well-being of teens and young adults. This work feels more important than ever these days.

Emily Charton

I am humbled and excited to serve as Head of School at the Rashi School, beginning July 1st. Rashi’s mission of developing critical-thinking, Jewishly-minded, world-changing students speaks to the core of my educational philosophy, as well as to my commitment to Jewish life and learning. Our TBS community includes many Rashi families, and I look forward to nurturing the relationship between our Temple and the enriching Jewish independent school that is Rashi. Educating future Jewish leaders means sustaining our global Jewish community; today more than ever, this work is critical. Thank you to my TBS family and to my Rashi family for this incredible opportunity!



continued on page 18



Strength and Hope in Joining Together: March for Israel, Washington, D.C.

We are grateful to hear from three of the more than 50 TBS Members who traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the March for Israel.

Shimrit Black

Ever since the attacks in Israel on October 7th, I struggled with the knowledge that so many of my family and friends were suffering. I wrestled with what to do, how to help, or show my support. I often found myself on social media spiraling in a world that felt filled with antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment. During this difficult time, I was grateful to TBS for facilitating my participation in the DC Rally for Israel. It gave me an opportunity to have a shared experience and spend many hours (20 hours on the bus!) connecting with TBS community members on a deeper level. Being with hundreds of thousands of Jews and Jewish allies standing against antisemitism and for the right of Israel to protect itself helped me reconnect to the reality that while hatred exists, there is also love and support for our people, here and in Israel. In addition, it was powerful to see Jewish people of all denominations standing together in unison. From this experience, I gained a stronger sense of connection to the Jewish community at TBS, in the United States, and globally, and I am very grateful to TBS clergy and staff for prioritizing this trip and bringing it all together in such a meaningful way.

Hadar Kramer

As the daughter of Israeli immigrants, I've sought ways to show support for my family and friends in Israel since the tragedy of 10/7. I'm deeply thankful that TBS provided the chance to unite with hundreds of thousands of Jews in Washington, D.C. Rabbi Jay and Rabbi Todd's words, conveyed through Yehudah Kurtzer, resonated with me deeply: "Our tradition emphasizes the significance of coming together, raising our



voices, and standing in solidarity during challenging times for the Jewish community." It was empowering to be among community, listen to the speakers, and simply show up. Thank you to our amazing clergy for leading and guiding us during this difficult time. Hineni.





Stacey Smalley and Mindee Greenberg*

On Monday afternoon, we gathered together on a bus at the TBS parking lot, headed to the March for Israel with an overnight stop at a hotel in Baltimore. We were a group of people from different communities, all coming together for a common purpose: to show our support for Israel. Of course, as soon as we sat down, we played Jewish geography and lo and behold, we found many connections. As we laughed about all of the common bonds and common friends, we felt strength in the anticipation of our upcoming journey together.

As we climbed off the bus in D.C. on Tuesday, we were greeted with a collection of Israeli flags, shirts, and signs with a variety of phrases in support of Israel. The energy and vibrancy were something that we typically only feel as we get off the plane in Israel, or maybe at camp and school reunions. We did not know exactly what to expect, but we knew we felt comfort as we were surrounded by “our people.”


As we rounded the corner at the National Mall, we bumped into familiar faces, many friends from near and far, and so many people whom we did not know.... Masses and masses of people. Everyone felt gratitude that we would share this important moment together and for the feeling of solidarity to be in each other’s presence. As we settled into a spot at the rally, two former campers of mine who were attending with their high school jumped up to greet us. The feeling of connection during this incredibly difficult time was not lost on us, as we once again recognized that we draw our strength from each other. As the National Mall filled up with close to 300,000 people, all there to show love and support for Israel, we knew we were strong together.

There were so many impactful and memorable moments during the five hours we stood shoulder to shoulder. There was the unequivocal support of Israel and contempt of antisemitism shared by multiple United States Senators and Representatives. There were emotional testimonials from families, allies, and community leaders. There were the continual chants of “Bring Them Home NOW” as the crowd held up signs with the pictures and names of the hostages. The singing of music from celebrated Israeli artists, heartfelt prayers, and together singing Hatikvah brought tears and an overwhelming feeling of Jewish pride. The chanting of Am Yisrael Chai over and over brought forth energy and solidarity.

Hearing Rachel Goldberg, the mother of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, one of the hostages, brought it closer to home. We are all asking with anguish what Rachel asked so poignantly: “Why is the world accepting that 240 human beings from almost 30 countries have been stolen and buried alive?” We still ask that question today.

We know that there are many people who wanted to attend the March for Israel but could not. We felt their love and support as we represented them - our friends, family, and colleagues, many of them watching from home. We are all struggling with the magnitude of sadness and the harness of hope, and together we find strength.

Inspired and overwhelmed with emotion, we walked the D.C. streets to the bus, following Rabbi Todd, holding an Israeli flag in one hand and a poster demanding the hostages to be brought home in the other hand, and Rabbi Jay and Emily shepherding our group toward the bus. As we drove the long way home, we reflected and shared with our new friends. We hoped that this extraordinary day will have a positive impact on our world.

*Mindee Greenberg is not a TBS member. We welcome her contribution to the March Scroll. 





Abigail Harmon

As the Managing Director of Mersky, Jaffe & Associates, I'm privileged to contribute to the Jewish community through my expertise in nonprofit consulting, focusing on fundraising and executive search. My journey in this field began 19 years ago, and each day brings new fulfillment.

In 2024, I'm collaborating with two synagogues, a local Hillel, a Jewish international NGO, and a landmark in Martha's Vineyard, aiding them in enhancing their financial and human resources. The heart of my role lies in empowering these organizations to achieve and surpass their goals.

A memorable moment in my career was realizing I could use my skills to help TBS as the Chair of the newly formed Development Committee. Witnessing the growth and success of nonprofit organizations is an incredible way to make a living.

Sheryl Hirsch

It's so rewarding working in the Jewish community! In addition to volunteering over the years, I've worked at Jewish organizations for more than 10 years. First at CJP (Combined Jewish Philanthropies) and now as the Communications Manager at Yad Chessed, the social services agency that helps those who struggle with financial hardship. You may not be aware, but there are thousands of people in the Greater Boston Jewish community who struggle to buy food, pay their rent, and afford other essentials. Yad Chessed provides emergency financial assistance, grocery gift cards, and advice on available resources. Yad Chessed also distributes additional funds for food at Purim and other Jewish holidays, and delivers holiday meals for Chanukah and Shavuot. As Yad Chessed has a small staff of only eight people, I wear many hats! I manage donor communications, provide development support, and manage Yad Chessed's social media, so be sure to follow Yad Chessed on Facebook and LinkedIn! For more information, visit yadchedded.org.



Sheryl (center) with Chanukah meal delivery helpers

Tricia Sherman



Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters (JBBBS) seeks to support and empower individuals and families to engage, to participate actively in the life of their communities, to live inspired, and to inspire others. We provide mentorship to children, teens, and adults (through our Friend 2 Friend program) as well as financial support (including camp and college scholarships), holiday programming, and referrals to other social service agencies. JBBBS is proud to serve families facing many hardships – emotional, physical, and financial – across every religion, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability.

In September of 2023, I became the Clinical Program Director of the Children's Program. My clinical area covers our one-of-a-kind Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) mentorship program, matching overseeing the Children's Program with all of our specialized subsets (College Mentoring, T1D, and LGBTQ+) and the day-to-day work with the families, I am able to also work with varying departments for recruitment, grant funding, programming, compliance, and whatever new opportunity comes our way. It is an honor and privilege to work with such an amazing group of individuals.



Ken is in the pink shirt

Ken Shifman

I am the Executive Director of Camp Avoda, a Jewish overnight camp for boys. This past summer was my 27th year at Avoda. I was a camper and staff member from 1980 to 1990; in 2008, I was lucky enough to become the Camp Avoda director! I love camp, helping kids become their better selves, and developing individuals and groups through a Jewish lens.

Through Avoda, I have made lifelong friends that are my social life, brothers, and support. Avoda is my profession and passion. I am not alone: instilling zeal, spirit, leadership, and Jewish identity is still happening today for Avoda boys and young men.

Nothing makes me happier than witnessing a camper overcome his fears and excel, watching the campers jump in the lake to celebrate a meaningful victory, learning that alumni in their 20s live together sharing apartments, debating the validity of a call in an important Color War game from over 40 years ago with my best friends, and knowing that we are making a difference in people's lives today!

Becca Shimshak

I am the Associate Director of Professional Development at the Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence at the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). I joined JFNA this fall after seven years at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.


Mandel takes a three-pronged approach to organizational growth of Jewish federations: cultivating a professional leadership talent pipeline, designing professional development to retain key staff, and providing core organizational data to the field.

In my role, I design programs to enhance the professional skills of employees. This includes management skills such as communication, team building, supervision, feedback, self-awareness, leadership competencies, and strategy. I am currently in graduate school at William James College for Organizational Psychology, so this position really interested me.

Recently, my department oversaw a professional conference and hosted nearly 1,000 people in Chicago. Fun fact: in our offices there are five Rebeccas and we all met up at the conference in November!



Jenny Small

In January of 2023, I returned to my alma mater, Brandeis University, to work as the Associate Director of the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education (MCSJE). MCSJE is a research center dedicated to advancing the field of Jewish educational scholarship through expansive research on teaching and learning and by convening and catalyzing other scholars and practitioners in the field. As Associate Director, I oversee the operations side of the organization: budget, human resources, marketing and communications, event planning, administration, and more. Because I am also a scholar, I have been able to keep my research agenda active while at work. Currently, I am studying members of traditionally-Jewish fraternities and sororities, their experiences on campus, and the educators who support them. I consider these chapters sites of Jewish learning and community, and I look forward to sharing the results of my research. 



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on the passing of her husband, Andrew Streisfeld

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Ian Grush and Deborah Robinson, and Sam Grush
on the passing of their father and grandfather, Dr. Leonard "Lennie" Grush

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on the passing of Issachar "Tziker" Golan

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on the passing of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Lorraine Benjamin

Nancy and Cliff Berger, Allison, Emily, and Stephanie
on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Eileen Lurie



Yahrzeits

MARCH 1, 2024

Ida Baker
Seymour Berger
Sarita Blau
Siu Kuen Chan
Marci Cohen
Mel Cohen
Sonia Cohen
Harry Comras
Lillian Crock
Edward Ediff
Michael Elias
Irene Freedberg
Burton Freedman
Charles Ediff
Aaron Glickman
Joseph Goldfarb
Maxine Greenfield
Fanny "Fay" Gruber
Herbert Hoffman
Irene Kaplan
Myra Shafran Landau
Marc Lesser
Maurice Levin
Zaki Y. Levy
Jerome Lipman
Stacy Malman
Ruth Riskind
Milton Ritt
Theodore Robbins
Belle Sadow
Richard Saletan
Peter Segaloff
Florence Sheetz
Arthur Sherman
Betty Snyder
Sima Spector
Emanuel Steer
Carol Stieber
Jacqueline C. Tamkin
Lillian Temkin
Gussie Troderman
Zalmon Wallack
Lucy Irene Whyte
David Wiltschko

MARCH 8

Max Andler
Pauline Aronson
Burnett Baron
Barbara Bernstein
Max H. Bohrer
Arlyne S. Brunswick
Morris I. Cohn
Kay Coltoff
Alan Cutler
Emily Cutler
Bessie Davis
Irving Davis
Lev Epshteyn
Evelyn Epstein
Gary Garber
Edward Gerstenfeld
Louis Goldberg
Christopher J. Guokas
Robert Halpern
Harry Handler
Frank Hecht
Gerald Albert Hruby
Minnie Kaplan
Irving Keller
Maurice S. Lipman
Irene Locker
Jill Fischer Maremont
Henry Milowe
Edward Musmon
Herbert Orkand
William "Billy" Poltarak
Janet Bearse Robinson
Mary S. Ross
Benjamin Schultz
Arthur "Sarge" Segaloff
Frances Segaloff
Morris Shubow
Gerald L. Silverstein
June Flaum Singer
David Snyder
Franci Ettinger Steiger
Betty Steir
Stanley Wein
Jacob Wernick
Michael Ziedman

MARCH 15

Sandor Agocs
Marshall J. Bailen
Frances Borson
Eva Brooks
Lawrence Cohen
Lenore G. Cohn
Jan E. Daniels
Ruth Eichhorn
Michael Freeman
Jeffrey Fruman
Lena Gershkovich
Eleanor Glou
Douglas Goff
Milton Goodman
Edgar Green
Gertrude Green
Trudy Hecker
Leah Herman
Phyllis Hyman
Iran Joventino
Faye Kaufman
Patricia Lilly Keepnews
Phyllis Kerner
Stanley Klein
Vivian Krafchik
Ilya Lapkin
Edith LeBlanc
Harold Levy
Elizabeth N. Lewis
Martin Littman
Augusta Novick Mack
Herbert A. Mann
Carl Mendelson
Bertha Patkin
Robert Polen
Irwin Polivy
Murray Reiss
Henry E. Rubin
Jules Saltzman
Benjamin Sarkis
Joseph Schnitman
Harvey Shapiro
Lyudmila Shekhtman
Esther Shoicket
Lillian Shore
Jane Talbot
Charlotte Kolbe Urwitz
Nathan Warnick
Charles Webb
Jack Wheeler

MARCH 22

Stuart Arvedon
William Barkin
Al Brodsky
David Brooks
Maurice I. Cherenson
Louis L. Cohen
Miriam Feist
Judith Nelson Feldman
Nancie Finck
Charles Fradkin
Zelda Freeman
Bert Goldstein
Stephen Grosberg
Mary Linda Halpern
Charles Halpert
Irving Hurwitz
Alvan B. Jacobson
Lucille Kline Kalish
Bob Kass
Nellie Katz
Herman Krangel
William Kushner
Joanne Landy
Mary Mavor
Harry Needle
Betty H. Nesselroth
Ruth Novak
Ann Nuzzi
Sam Pasco
Joseph Posses
Shari Rosenthal
Barbara Shadovitz
Hilda Silberman
Herman Stein
Samuel L. Stockman
Reva "Bega" Stone
Evelyn Tavan
Susan Vadas
Esther Wrobel

MARCH 29

Gladys Aakre
Laurel Elizabeth Adams
Paul Berger
Trina Berkowitz
Harold Chalfin
Louise Coffman
Carol Cohan
Ellen Cutler
Holly E. Davidson
Alan Dver
Charles Fastov
Dorothy Fastov
Barnet Fine
Sheila Fish
Hal Fishbein
Lester S. Gassman
Lillian Gladstone
Samuel Goff
Alan Goldberg
Gisele Setton Goldstein
Elaine Spigle Groman
Gloria Hirsch
Vern Hodsdon
Dorothy Hootstein
Nathan Katz
Carla Kimhi
Josephine Klein
Lawrence Laskey
Judith Alperin Levy
Susan McConchie
David S. Miller
Sadie Niss
Jack Ravech
Benjamin Reiss
Casey Jane Richards
Benjamin Richmond
Helen Romer
Nathan Rosenfeld
Lorraine Rosenthal
Jack Rossel
Robert Schatz
Wendy Schneller
Sarah Shidlovitz
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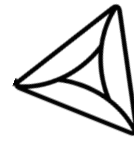
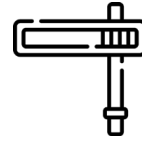
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