

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom – Needham, Massachusetts

May 2023

Iyar/Sivan 5783



TBS Refugee Initiative

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Fifteen Years and Still Blooming Needham's Art in Bloom

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On the Cover

"Needham's Art in Bloom"

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From the Editorial Board

There is nothing like hearing those melodies that connect you to your past: tradition! And yet we learn in this issue that it is traditional to change the music for our services. Change can be difficult. And then we place it in the context of political upheaval on a global scale and refugees on an individual scale, and suddenly music of any melody in a safe sanctuary becomes pure luxury.

Our imperative is to help manage the inevitable change around us. Throughout this issue you will find examples of and invitations to help shape change. By choosing to help anticipate, prepare for, and influence change, we can each help make change positive. We hope you will find something to inspire you to make and continue to make changes - to make a difference - in the lives of people near and/or far.

I just thought about the fact that only two letters separate change from challenge: e and l. May *el - elohim* - inspire and help us with the challenge of change.

By Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board

Welcome New Members

Deena and Eric Aborjaily and Amira (14) and Brandon (9)
Stacey and Evan Olesh and Spencer (6), Ryder (4), and Jesse (1)
Jonathan and Amy Zises and Henry (2) and Dylan (not yet 1)

Services in May

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

FRIDAY, MAY 5 (15 Iyar 5783)

5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service (Community Hall)
7:15 PM 'Om Shalom' Yoga Service (Community Hall)
7:15 PM Simchat Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 6 (15 Iyar 5783)

Torah: *Emor* Lev. 21:1 - 24:23
8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah
(Front Conference Room and online)
B. Mitzvah: Reece Biegeleisen
B. Mitzvah: Allison Darish

FRIDAY, MAY 12 (22 Iyar 5783)

7:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 13 (22 Iyar 5783)

Torah: *B'har-B'Chukotai* Lev. 25:1 - 27:34
8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah
(Front Conference Room and online)
B. Mitzvah: Jake Mann
B. Mitzvah: Leah Damelin

FRIDAY, MAY 19 (29 Iyar 5783)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 20 (29 Iyar 5783)

Torah: *B'Midbar* Num. 1:1 - 4:20
8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah
(Front Conference Room and online)
B. Mitzvah: Hannah Beaser and Piper Shriber
B. Mitzvah: Ethan Fox and Harrison Fox

SUNDAY, MAY 21 (1 Sivan 5783)

B. Mitzvah: Travis Rosin

FRIDAY, MAY 26 (7 Sivan 5783)

7:00 AM Shavuot Morning Service and Yizkor
(Beit Midrash) (6 Sivan)
6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 27 (7 Sivan 5783)

Torah: *Naso* / Numbers 4:21 - 5:31
8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Beit Midrash)
9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)
9:15 AM Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah
(Front Conference Room and online)
B. Mitzvah: Allyson Faberman

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 May – Stay Involved!

Committees not listed will not meet formally this month.

Adult Learning
Brotherhood Board
Communications
Environmental Action
Garden Club
Library
Scroll Editorial Board
Three Score/More or Less

Wed. May 3, 7:30 PM
Tue. May 9, 7:15 PM
Wed. May 17, 7:15 PM
Thur. May 25, 8:00 PM
Tue. May 2, 7:15 PM
Every Wednesday, 9:30 AM
Tue. May 30, 12:00 PM
Mon. May 22, 7:30 PM

AdultLearning@tbsneedham.org
Brotherhood@tbsneedham.org
Communications@tbsneedham.org
EnvironAction@tbsneedham.org
GardenClub@tbsneedham.org
Library@tbsneedham.org
Scroll@tbsneedham.org
threeScoreMoreOrLess@tbsneedham.org

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



A Tale as Old, Perhaps, As Worship Itself

By Cantor DJ Fortine



Following Shabbat evening services, a congregant pulls the cantor or rabbi aside and asks, “Why did you change the melody for my favorite prayer?” (You, dear reader, may be one of the dozens with whom I’ve had this exact conversation at TBS!)

Music is memory. We, understandably, have strong emotional ties to certain melodies — whether it be the “Shalom Aleichem” we grew up singing on Shabbat or the “Shalom Rav” melody we learned at summer camp — and



we yearn for opportunities to share in those tunes with those around us. We feel a deep sense of connection and community when we have the opportunity to raise our voices with those around us and indulge in the musical equivalent of “comfort food.”

Our tradition, though, actually encourages us to change the melodies that we include in our prayer ritual! Jewish communities all over the world have toed the line between ritual tradition and ritual innovation for millennia, and the development of new Jewish prayer melodies is a testament to that balancing act.

Even the most traditional Jewish *nusach hat’filah* — prayer cantillation — sees melodies for certain prayers change based on the time of day, week, or year when we’re praying (think of all of the different ways you’ve heard *L’cha Dodi* or *Mi Chamocha* sung based on what holiday is closest). But even beyond changing prayer melodies for the sake of calendrical

differentiation, we learn in Talmud (*Berakhot* 29b:7) and other prominent commentary that: “*ha-oseih t’filato keva; ein t’filato tachanunim*” — if one prays in a fixed (or perfunctory) manner, their prayers are not considered earnest.” Our sages have taught us to breathe new life into our prayers. It’s not so long ago that even the two ubiquitous melodies I alluded to above (Israel Goldfarb’s *Shalom Aleichem* and Jeff Klepper’s *Shalom Rav*) were brand new compositions that would have been considered deviations from “traditional melodies.”

Please see below to learn about some of my favorite Jewish musicians who so adeptly reinvigorate our liturgy through their compositions and to find ways to discover more of their music and teachings.

Artist

Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

What of his have we heard?

These past High Holy Days, we shared his *Ki Tzarich* in tandem with Rabbi Jay’s Yom Kippur Morning Sermon. You may also be familiar with his composition *Hame’irah* - a lively and interpretive setting of the prayer *Yotzeir Or*, which uses feminine God language.



Where can we hear more?

Rabbi Warshawsky’s album *Chaverai NevaRech* is available on Apple Music and Spotify, and you can access many more of his songs and teachings at joshwarshawsky.com

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From Our Board of Trustees

A Bouquet of Our Own

By Wendy Gutterson, Congregational President



Happy May! It's so great to be outside more, enjoying the sun's warmth, longer days, baseball games, and the greenness all around us.

During the past few summers, David and I have participated in CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture). We are grateful to do our small part to help small farms and eat locally. We've enjoyed creating meals with lots of carrots and kohlrabi, and the challenge of making different salads for an entire week when our farm share is full of interesting lettuce. In addition to fresh vegetables, our weekly farm share also includes a flower bucket – truly a large bucket of stems cut from whatever is in bloom that week. We dutifully bring them home and carefully arrange them. I admit that this is always a struggle for me, and the best arrangements are the ones that highlight each stem's independent beauty even as it makes the stem next to it more vibrant.

And so, it will be no surprise that our Temple Beth Shalom Garden Club has always been an inspiration to me. Like many, I love seeing the beautiful arrangements in our sanctuary each week. These displays, along with the creative interpretation of student artwork at the Art in Bloom exhibit in March, showcase the talents of Garden Club members. We are truly blessed to have this treasure in our community.

I've always wondered, however, why it is called the Garden Club if we don't have a garden!

A garden is something that is tended, nurtured, developed. Gardens require care and attention. In so many ways, the garden can be a metaphor for our own congregational community. Working together, our clergy, professional staff, board members, committee chairs, and volunteers talk and consider, plan and act. And just like the flowers in our sanctuary display or the Art in Bloom arrangements, the beauty of our community is enhanced when we join together. We are certainly more vibrant when we help each other grow. And certainly, our Garden Club contributes to this joy.

We might consider that our TBS Nominating Committee has the job of planting the seeds for our garden. Their work begins long before the next slate of lay leaders is proposed. Nominating Committee members consider the current constellation of the board and how best to ensure representation from all areas of congregational life. Their mission is to bring together a group of individuals who will share thoughts and ideas to meet our TBS mission. It is the Board of Trustees (working alongside our amazing and talented professional staff) who have the job of tending to our community needs, making recommendations and decisions that support our congregation and help all of our members form a collective, beautiful TBS bouquet.

David joins me in wishing you a happy planting season!

L'Shalom,

Wendy

PS – Please mark your calendars for June 4th and join us for the TBS Annual Meeting.



B. Mitzvah

Reece Biegeleisen, Saturday, May 6

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Reece loves football (playing and watching), basketball, skiing and hanging out with friends.

Mitzvah Project: Reece is raising awareness of the Holocaust through learning and retelling survivor stories and amplifying education on social media.

Allison Darish, Saturday, May 6

School: The Carroll School

Interests: Allie loves skiing, basketball, and golf and enjoys spending time with friends.

Mitzvah Project: Allie has been baking monthly for Friday night Shabbat dinners for clients of Chai Residential Services at JF&CS.

Jake Mann, Saturday, May 13

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Jake loves sports, especially baseball. Jake also enjoys skiing and playing with his dog, Ruby.

Mitzvah Project: Jake volunteered with Athletes Unlimited, a program for disabled youth. Jake enjoyed playing basketball with kids and Family Bingo.

Leah Damelin, Saturday, May 13

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Leah loves to read, cook, dance, and learn about mushrooms. She wants to be a mycologist when she grows up.

Mitzvah Project: Leah is holding a bake sale to raise money for Out Metrowest, a local organization that supports LGBTQIA+ adolescents.

Hannah Beaser, Saturday, May 20

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Hannah loves sports, and hanging out with family, friends, and her dog.

Mitzvah Project: Hannah sold used books, and donated proceeds to the YMCA, funding a registration to youth basketball for underprivileged children.

Piper Shriber, Saturday, May 20

School: Brown Middle School

Interests: Piper is a singing gymnast who brings big energy into every room she enters.

Mitzvah Project: Piper volunteered at the MSPCA and donated food to homeless shelters and animal shelters.

Ethan Fox, Saturday, May 20

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Ethan loves sports, spending time with his family and friends, and his summers at Camp Caribou.

Mitzvah Project: Ethan hosted a used book drive where he gathered and donated hundreds of books to Cradles to Crayons.



Harrison Fox, Saturday, May 20

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Harrison loves hanging out with his family and friends, sports, and spending his summers at Camp Caribou.

Mitzvah Project: Harrison hosted a shoe drive where he gathered and donated more than 50 pairs of shoes to Cradles to Crayons.

Travis Rosin, Sunday, May 21

School: High Rock Middle School

Interests: Travis loves table tennis, soccer, and relaxing with sitcoms.

Mitzvah Project: Travis packed meals for those in need, raised money for concussion research, and assisted with youth sports at the Needham YMCA.

Allyson Faberman, Saturday, May 27

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Allyson likes to spend time with friends and family, and loves skiing, field hockey, and her summers at Camp Tevya.

Mitzvah Project: Allyson volunteers at Family Promise Metrowest, an organization that supports families in temporary shelters.

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

FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM

In a comprehensive survey released this year, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports “the number of people in the U.S. who harbor extensive prejudice against Jews has doubled since 2019 to the highest level in decades.”

Please join us in fighting back: contact your TBS Antisemitism Awareness Initiative, asai@tbsneedham.org.



May Highlights

Novels @ Night

Thursdays, May 4, 11, 7:30-9:00 PM Outside of Temple

Spring is here, and it's a time for new beginnings! So, please join us in person (mask-friendly) for the final installment of the year of Novels at Night. Bring your thoughts, opinions, questions, and insights about our book, *The Lost Family*, by Jenna Blum. If you have never made it to Novels at Night, don't let that dissuade you from joining us. Each time we have new and returning attendees.

Please sign up for further details and so we know how many people are coming. Let us know if you would like to bring something to share to eat or drink.

Register: t-b-s.me/NovelsatNight Contact: Sarah Fleckner at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Mosaic Making @ SoWa

Friday, May 5, 6:00-7:30 PM Outside of Temple

The TBS Community Mosaic is a collaborative effort to create a beautiful work of art representing the Tree of Life for our temple home. In this year of returning to the Temple and reconnecting with each other, we hope this project will bring members together in a new way. All ages, stages, and artistic abilities are invited to come be part of this project by making a small mosaic that will be incorporated into a large mosaic and part of TBS's permanent art collection.

Register: t-b-s.me/mosaic Contact: Ellen Dietrick at edietrick@tbsneedham.org

Join Team TBS for the Walk for Hunger - Cutler Park Style!

Sunday, May 7, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Calling all walkers. Connect with old and new TBS friends outdoors while doing a mitzvah!

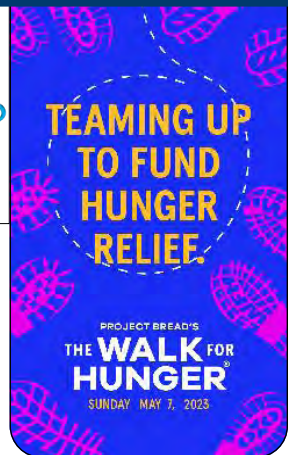
Please join Team TBS for our fourth annual Project Bread Walk for Hunger, at Needham's own Cutler Park. We will build community and raise funds to support JF&CS' Family Table and food pantries throughout Massachusetts. Bring the kids, a friend, the dog and your water bottle and walk as far as you desire, while being part of this special event. The entire loop is 1.6 miles long. All ages welcome, under 15 with an adult.

Please also consider bringing a grocery bag of non-perishable food to the Walk for donation to Family Table. Please see TBS This Week for the link with a list of needed items!

This walk will take place rain or shine.

Register: t-b-s.me/walkforhunger Donations: t-b-s.me/WFHDonations

Contact: Linda at SocialAction@TBSNeedham.org



"Infuse Your Life with Herbs," a Garden Club Program

Wednesday, May 10, 7:15-8:45 PM Simon Hall

Karen O'Brien, "The Green Woman's Gardener," will present a program on how to infuse your life with herbs. Karen, a Master Gardener, owns and operates about 50 acres of farm land in Richmond, New Hampshire. She concentrates on native plants and is actively involved with The Herb Society. She will teach us how fresh herbs can enhance our lives not only culinarily but through all the senses. For more information, check out her website: greenwomansgarden.com. Guests are welcome for a small fee.

Contact: Carol Gershman at gardenclub@tbsneedham.org



Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 14, 8:00-10:00 AM Outside of Temple

TBS is a member of the Interfaith Committee of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, a Boston-based organization dedicated to support and healing for families who have lost loved ones to homicide.

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is their annual fundraiser and TBS has a team! We invite you to support the mission of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute as they support families and communities that have been impacted by trauma and loss. You can get involved in multiple ways:

- Donate directly to the TBS Team: t-b-s.me/walkforpeacedonation
- Join us for the Walk! Register at the link below and direct your registration fee to the Temple Beth Shalom Needham team. Register: t-b-s.me/walkforpeace Contact: Randi Lite at randilite@gmail.com



Volunteer In-Person at Community Servings!

May 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Outside of Temple

Join TBS Social Action as we continue to partner with Community Servings, a TBS volunteer favorite, to help provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically-ill individuals and their families.

Volunteers can expect to help with tasks like peeling and chopping vegetables, portioning and packaging food, and packing meal bags for delivery to Community Servings clients. This is a wonderful opportunity for anybody looking to volunteer in a meaningful and engaging way with an amazing organization.

Volunteers must be fully vaccinated. Meet at Community Servings, 179 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain. Plenty of parking and a 25-minute drive from TBS. Training provided at the beginning of your first shift.

Sign up at the link below for any 9:00 AM-12:00 PM shift during the week of May 15-19!

Volunteers must be 13 years old or over, and volunteers under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

After May 5, Community Servings will offer open shifts to non-TBS volunteers. You are welcome to still volunteer, but please contact Nate Ross, Manager of Volunteer Service, at 617-522-7777 x228 to arrange your shift.

Register: t-b-s.me/CommunityServingsMay Contact: Linda Hill at socialaction@tbsneedham.org



Drive-Thru Towel Drive

Wednesday, May 17, 9:00-9:45 AM Front Parking Lot

TBS Social Action is excited to partner with Welcome Home, a nonprofit organization in Newton that collects and redistributes like-new and new household items to hundreds of people in need each month with no fees or forms. Founded in 2016, Welcome Home strives to provide basic household items to families experiencing hardship so they may live with dignity.

We are collecting used and new bath towels, beach towels, hand towels and washcloths. Take this opportunity to do a little spring cleaning and donate items you are no longer using to help somebody in need.

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May Highlights continued...

Drive-Thru Towel Drive *continued from page 9*

We will collect your donations from your car, on the Webster Street side of the TBS front parking lot.

Can't make it to the collection? No problem! Please email us at the address below to arrange to drop your donation of household items at a Needham address prior to the collection, to request to be added to the TBS Social Action mailing list, or if you have any questions.

Thank you for helping us care for the stranger in our midst.

Register: t-b-s.me/TowelDrive Contact: socialaction@tbsneedham.org

Brotherhood Blood Drive

Sunday, May 21, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Simon Hall

Continuing our new minhag (tradition), TBS Brotherhood is pleased to announce our annual May blood drive.

We will once again be serving the traditional bagels and lox feast. We will also have sweet treats, along with individually wrapped snacks, and lots of love and heartfelt appreciation.

Contact: donateblood@tbsneedham.org

To Donate Blood: t-b-s.me/giveblood

To Volunteer: t-b-s.me/bloodvolunteer

613th Annual - TBS Brotherhood Community Blood Drive

Community Blood Drive

In partnership with the American Red Cross



Sunday, May 21
8 AM - 2 PM



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
670 Highland Avenue, Needham

Do a mitzvah! Donate blood!

Donate: t-b-s.me/giveblood

Volunteer: t-b-s.me/bloodvolunteer



Sisterhood Spring Donor Event

Tuesday, May 23, 6:30-9:00 PM

The Sisterhood of TBS invites you to kick off summer at our annual donor event. Join us for cocktails, dinner, and entertainment.

Fee: \$54 – Deadline: May 16

Register: t-b-s.me/SHDonor Contact: Susan Patkin at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org



Recurring Events

Israeli Dance

Mondays, 7:00-8:30 PM Simon Hall

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. The tuition is \$5 per session, which is paid when you attend.

Contact: eperlman@tbsneedham.org



Om Shalom Yoga Service

Friday, May 5, 7:15 PM

Om Shalom Yoga Shabbat creates a spiritual space that centralizes healthy movement and breath work as part of a Shabbat service. The practice includes Shabbat prayers, music, and ceremony woven together into a movement-practice that makes for a unique prayer experience.

Ages 12 and above are invited to participate. All physical abilities are welcome. Yoga mats are available; feel free to bring your own if you prefer.

Our Om Shalom leader, Andrew Tanner, is a global yoga teacher and public speaker known for his yoga industry advocacy, soulful style of teaching, and unshaken faith in his students' ability to transform for the better. Andrew is proud to have grown up at TBS and thrilled to be coming home to share his passion for yoga.

*Note: Our new monthly "Om Shalom" service will run concurrently with our regular "Simchat Shabbat" musical service. Both services will conclude at approximately the same time and participants will enjoy a sweet *Oneg* together.



Pre-Shabbat Yoga

Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM Expansion Area and Online

Join Stephanie Javaheri for pre-Shabbat yoga. Yoga is all about the inside and not the pretty or bendy postures that we see on the outside. It's about self inquiry, observation and awareness of your body, breath and mind to help feel more grounded.

Set aside preconceived yogic notions and come experience an hour of bliss with slow mindful movement. No experience necessary. Just an open mind.

Drop in at TBS for the in person class, or join in online using the link below. No registration is necessary.

Register: t-b-s.me/yoga



Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:15-10:15 AM Conference Room (front)

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

Drop in at TBS to join the discussion in person, or go to t-b-s.me/findingvalues to join in via Zoom. No registration is necessary.



Recurring Events continued...

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

Friday, May 19, 9:15-9:45 AM Front Parking Lot

TBS Social Action needs your help with our monthly collection of bag lunches and breakfast foods for donation to homeless shelters in the Brockton area. This is a great project to do individually or as a family! Participate in this monthly mitzvah to help feed the increasingly large numbers of homeless guests at these shelters. There are many options: Make bag lunches, or donate cases of water or juice or a variety of breakfast items.

It's easy! Our collection team will be in the TBS Front Parking Lot, on the far side from the Temple, at the corner of Highland Avenue and Webster Street, ready to safely transfer your donations from your car as you drive up.

If you can't make it on May 19, just sign up for your food donation items and then email us at the email below to arrange for an earlier delivery date.

To donate: t-b-s.me/baglunch Contact: socialaction@tbsneedham.org



The Little-Known TBS Committee With a Lot of Power

By Mark Maremont

Every TBS member recently received information about a new slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees and other posts, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 4. You might be wondering how the new slate of nominees is selected. Here's the answer: The TBS Nominating Committee, a little-known body with considerable influence. If you're interested in how TBS is run or in a potential leadership role at some point, you should learn a bit more about the Nominating Committee.

What is the nominating committee?

As its name suggests, the Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating members of the 18-member TBS Board of Trustees: the President, Executive Vice President, seven Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and eight Trustees. The committee also nominates new members of the Nominating Committee to replace those rotating off. After the committee nominates candidates, the TBS community votes whether to approve them at the Annual Meeting, which takes place in June.

Who is on the committee?

The committee has seven members, including a Chair. Six serve staggered, two-year terms, while the Chair is appointed by the board President. By tradition, the immediate past President, currently Eugene Stein, serves as the Chair for the two years following his or her term as President. Current members, aside from Eugene, are Lauren Greenstein, Mark Maremont, Sarah Mesnik, Henry Mittelman, Lori Shaer, and Stacey Smalley.



How does the committee select candidates?

Committee members typically meet with TBS clergy, staff, and lay leaders to gather names of TBS members they believe might be good candidates. Past committees also pass along a confidential list of potential nominees compiled in prior years. Committee members reach out to some of those on the lists to hear about their TBS experiences and gauge potential interest in leadership positions, either currently or sometime in the future.

Committee members also have conversations with current board members whose terms are ending to see if they are interested in renomination. There is no guarantee that anybody contacted, including current board members, will be nominated.

By the spring, the committee narrows down the list and votes on potential candidates, then meets with these individuals to make sure they understand their potential roles and are willing to serve.

It is important to note that all committee discussions are strictly confidential!

What leadership qualities is the committee looking for?

The committee is looking for TBS members who are active, have prior involvement on committees or other roles, and show a willingness to commit the time. The committee also is looking for those who have shown that they are team builders and are willing to listen, but also those willing to challenge and question.

What is the time commitment to be on the board or the nominating committee?

Board members attend monthly meetings, often two-to-three hours in length, and have other duties interacting with Clergy and senior leadership and representing the Board at worship services and shiva duties. The time commitment is slightly greater for Vice Presidents.

Nominating Committee members typically attend monthly meetings that last one-and-a-half hours from September to April, plus devote additional time to gather information about and meet with potential nominees. Nominating Committee members also represent the community at worship services and fulfill shiva duties. The frequency of meetings picks up in the late winter.

Whom should I contact if I am interested in a leadership role?

Contact Eugene Stein at eugene.p.stein@gmail.com, or any current member of the nominating committee.



TBS Refugee Initiative Is Helping to Change Lives: The Sweet and Bittersweet

By Robert Andrews

HOW WE'VE BEEN HELPING

Helping Families

When the TBS Refugee Initiative was launched in October 2021, a committed group of volunteers supported a family from Afghanistan's resettlement process by helping to secure and furnish an apartment, setting up ESL tutoring, finding the husband a stable job, and providing countless hours of childcare after the birth of their second son. Volunteers aided them in accessing medical care and taught them about American culture.

A year later, able to write a rent check, go grocery shopping on their own, and use public transportation, among many other daily tasks, the family moved across the country to join friends in Washington State. It was a bittersweet moment – while it was hard to say goodbye, our team was thrilled to see them making choices for themselves and taking the next step toward a happy and independent life in the United States.

Raising Funds

The first year of the Refugee Initiative saw TBS raising over \$40,000 to support refugees from Afghanistan. That first year was just the beginning. Refugee and immigration support has become an integral part of TBS' *tikkun olam* and *tzedek* work. Many congregants and volunteers have stepped up to continue working and learning together about how we can have an even greater impact on the lives of refugees in our midst.

Aiding Ukrainians

As we saw the situation in Ukraine become dire, TBS members jumped into action, rallying to donate medical supplies and raise funds to help Ukrainians coming to the Boston area. Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFS) was able to connect our group with the Heal Ukraine Group (www.healukrainegroup.org), who were looking for housing for a Ukrainian woman and her two-year-old son. This woman is here to complete a fellowship at Dana-Farber and will return to Ukraine with more advanced medical training to help rebuild the country. We were able to transfer the lease for the unit where the Afghan family had been living to this new family and provided some rental subsidy, furnishings, and home goods.

TBS raised an additional \$8,700 to support another Ukrainian family arriving in the Boston area. Through TBS members, we have identified Daniel, a two-year-old boy who is coming with his mother to Dover in the next few weeks to receive treatment at MGH hospital. Temple Beth Shalom was able to partner with the National Celiac Association (nationalceliac.org/contact) to financially support this family.

OPPORTUNITIES NOW

The TBS community has the opportunity to stand up once again and begin planning for future refugees arriving in our community. In partnership with Jewish Family Service of MetroWest and the Shapiro Foundation, our Children's Center has been able to participate in the U4U Labor Pathways Program by hiring a number of women from Ukraine to become teachers at the Children's Center. Should our efforts be successful, we can be a model for other early childhood education centers and even other industries for welcoming individuals to our country through this method. We cannot pull off this effort without your support.



Our Immediate Goal

If you would like to make a financial contribution to support refugees in crisis across the globe, you may do so through our Refugee Resettlement Fund at the TBS website at t-b-s.me/donate. Contributions support refugees resettling in the Boston/Needham area, provide aid for refugees around the world through financial support of global organizations, create opportunities for activism, purchase supplies sent to refugee camps and support organizations, and enable other refugee aid endeavors. Donations given as a part of this new appeal will go directly to helping the Ukrainian women coming to serve as educators in our own community. We would like to raise \$5,000 for each woman coming for a total of \$20,000.

Interested in Volunteering Directly with a Refugee?

If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, we are looking for individuals who are willing to take on key roles leading the different pathways of support: housing, education, healthcare, community connections, and technology. The work and time involved in each of these roles will depend on the women arriving and their abilities and needs. Every family is unique and may have greater or lesser need for assistance depending on the makeup of the family – children, language skills, experience traveling to other countries, etc.

The most essential (and often the most challenging) role for all volunteers is to support the family in learning how to successfully do things for themselves – this takes time, patience, and flexibility. There are experienced volunteers from the initial work with the refugee family from Afghanistan who can offer lots of support and guidance. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rabbi Jay or Rabbi Todd or email refugee@TBSneedham.org. Thank you!

Sefer Torah Update: Quiet Action!

By Bernice Sue Behar and Wendy Gutterson

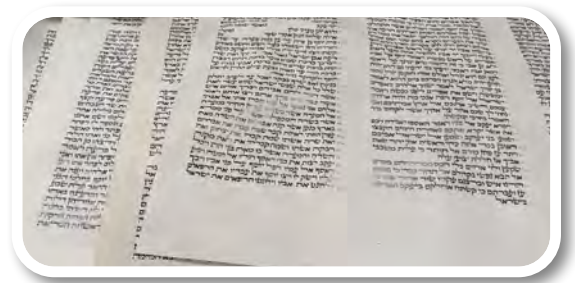
You may be wondering what has been happening with our *Sefer Torah* project, creating a new Torah for our community. While there hasn't been much news to share over the past few months, no news *does not* imply no activity!

Behind the scenes, our *Soferet* (Torah scribe) Ariela Housman has been hard at work each day, working letter-by-letter, verse-by-verse, to complete our beautiful new Torah. Recently, we asked if she would offer a short reflection on some of the verses she was currently scribing. Below is what she shared regarding *parasha Shemot*. Her final thoughts, in bold, reflect nicely on how Ariela too is bringing her own cleverness, or emotional intelligence, to the creation of our sacred Torah.

When collecting the group of workers who will make Aaron's priestly garments, God instructs Moses in Exodus 28:3 to *t'daber el-kol-hachmei-lev*, which the Jewish Publication Society renders "Speak to all the wise-hearted." It's an interesting turn of phrase. *Hachmah*, which means "wisdom" or "intelligence" in the Bible, tends to have less of a connotation of wisdom than of cleverness. Cleverness, to me, may be "smart" in some senses, but it connotes a smartness that doesn't center a collective or emotional health. *Hachmei lev*, or "wise-hearted" suggests that **this group was assembled with an emphasis on emotional intelligence rather than singular genius. I really like that that was what God wanted us to bring to the creation of the priestly garments.**

The Sefer Torah project remains in full swing, and we are looking forward to welcoming Ariela back to TBS for a week-long visit June 4-June 11. If you have not had a chance to watch Ariela as she scribes, and would like to, please contact us at [sefertorah@tbsneedham.org](mailto:sfertorah@tbsneedham.org).

We look forward to seeing you at a Torah scribing session in June!



Fifteen Years and Still Blooming Needham's Art in Bloom

By Beth Shulman and Allison Shapiro

The milestone fifteenth year of Needham's Art in Bloom was extra special! This year's co-chairs, Beth Paisner and Christine Sampson, along with Needham High School art teacher Maria Sartori and Needham Library's Gay Ellen

Dennett, took on the challenge of bringing this prized annual event back to the community in-person after two years of being presented online. Over 2,400 residents from Needham and beyond were able to enjoy the talented Needham High School student art paired with creative floral interpretations by the Beth Shalom, Needham, and Kalmia Garden Clubs.

It was a notable year of representation from TBS. Student artists included Owen Bienen, Ruby Ellerin, Mia Markley, Leo Shems, Abby Shusterman, Danielle Sockol, Jacob Towvim, and Emerson Wilson. Beth Shalom floral designers included Carol Gershman, Margie Glou, Lauren Kinghorn, Judy Jacobs, Sue Kaplan, Allison Shapiro, and Beth Shulman.



Abby Shusterman, floral interpretation by Amy Liss

For over 40 years, Sue Kaplan has been an integral leader of the Beth Shalom Garden Club, presenting floral arranging demonstrations and hands-on design workshops for new and experienced members. As the Temple's floral maven, she has been behind the scenes designing bima arrangements, galas, *sukkahs*, *B. Mitzvah*, and many other special occasions. She has also designed floral interpretations for Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Sue is a national flower show judge and a longtime member and supporter of the Garden Club Federation of MA. She had a dream with Allison Shapiro that became a reality with a grant from the Needham Cultural Council in 2009, when they kicked off the first Needham's Art in Bloom. Their vision was to create a community event that would



Emerson Wilson, floral interpretation by Diana Garcia-Martinez



bring Needhamites of all generations together and pair talented NHS student artwork with floral interpretations by Garden Club members. The exhibit is modeled after the MFA's Art in Bloom. Roche Bros. has been the primary sponsor since the early days, keeping this popular free multi-generational community event a treasure for the Needham community.

Needham's Art in Bloom has earned two prestigious awards from the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts: a *Special Achievement Award* and a *Civic Public Relations Award*. At the national level, after a selective application process, it earned the national *Exemplary Project Award* by The Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education. To learn more, visit www.goldinfoundation.org.

To celebrate Needham's 300th birthday in 2011, Needham's Art in Bloom featured a special exhibition with floral interpretations of notable historic and contemporary Needham artists and authors. A photo collage and program were also proudly submitted by the Garden Club to be included in the town's time capsule for future generations to see. In 2018, Needham's Art in Bloom celebrated its 10th anniversary and spotlighted the Fine Arts teachers.



Danielle Sockol, floral interpretation by Marina Sokolova



Mia Markley, floral interpretation by Beth Shulman



Art in Bloom continued...

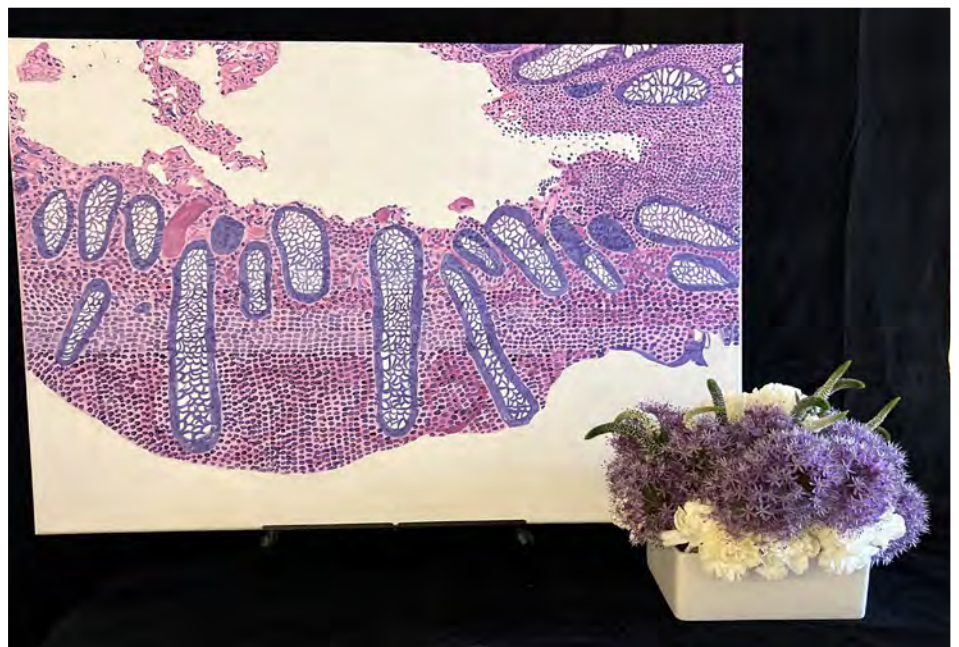


Emily Perlman's remarks in our guest book reflect the sentiments of many: "Enthusiasm for this event from the community has been evident from the beginning. I look forward to this every year! Thank you for all the hard work!"

The Garden Club hopes it has sown the seeds to continue providing well-earned recognition to the NHS Fine Arts Department students and faculty in addition to showcasing the talents of Beth Shalom Garden Club's members. View our growth and see exhibits from past years at our new updated website (www.needhamartinbloom.com).

We are looking forward to another 15 years and beyond of blooming artists and floral designers to celebrate the greater Needham community.

Leo Shems, floral interpretation by Lauren Kinghorn



Ruby Ellerin, floral interpretation by Carol Gershman





Jacob Towvim, floral interpretation by Sue Kaplan



Owen Bienen, floral interpretation by Lisa Burns

Hats for Israeli Soldiers: Nearly a Decade of Warmth

By Margie Glou

In 2014, our Knitting Mavens embarked on a new project, “Hats for Israeli Soldiers.” Over the next nine years, 638 black hats were made and delivered to Israel.

Rabbi Jay enjoyed the privilege of giving the hats to Channah Koppel, founder of this project, during his TBS trips to Israel. When the trip was canceled during the COVID pandemic, we packed the hats in boxes and mailed them.

Rabbi Jay relates the following story....

During this year's TBS Israel trip, due to complicated schedules, unfortunately we weren't able to meet with Channah to deliver the beautiful hand-knit hats made by our TBS Knitting Mavens.

Channah and I had been in contact via WhatsApp and decided that I would leave the 80+ TBS hats in a zipped canvas bag at the front desk at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem.

I knew that, for security reasons, I would need to explain the contents of the bag to the concierge. On the morning that we checked out of the hotel, I approached the concierge. The person working security had been standing nearby and leaned in as I started to explain my somewhat unusual request. I shared that I had a bag filled with dozens of hand-knit hats for IDF soldiers. I told them that they had been made by members of my community, Temple Beth Shalom in Needham, Massachusetts, and that I wanted to leave them for a woman who would pick them up and deliver them to soldiers.

As I spoke, I unzipped the bag to show them the black knit caps. It was clear that both the concierge and security person were moved by this gesture of care from a far-away community. They not only agreed to facilitate the hat hand-off, but did so warmly and enthusiastically.

The message that these Israelis received through our interaction is that we care.

Indeed, we do. Heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing TBS knitters!

Although I have not personally met Channah, we have enjoyed an email relationship. I was surprised and saddened by her letter this year:

Hi all!

So nice to hear from you. And as always, thank you thank you for the hats!

I'm actually winding down this project, after 15 years and tens of thousands of hats. So far I haven't found anyone to take over so this may well be the last year for Hats for Soldiers.

Thanks for your ongoing dedication. Best wishes,

Channah Koppel

While the Knitting Mavens will no longer be making hats, we continue to knit Caring Wraps for those congregants who need a “hug” while recuperating from an illness, surgery or hospital stay, and baby blankets for our newest TBS members.

We would love to have you join us! Contact us if you like to knit and share your gifted hands with our TBS members. We supply the yarn, needles and instructions.

Contact: Margie Glou, mglou@comcast.net or Bobbi Niss, bobbiniss@yahoo.com



Contributions The Minimum donation for contributions to be listed in the *Scroll* is \$18.00.

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The beautiful naming ceremony for
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IN HONOR OF

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Rabbi Todd's warmth, guidance &
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Rabbi Todd

The Brotherhood Breakfast with the
Rabbis

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Linda Hill receiving this year's Marc
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Brody Andrew new great-grandson of
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The birth of my great grandson Brody
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Margie Glou

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Linda Hill receiving the Marc Comras
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The Purim "goodie" bag

IN HONOR OF

Rob Black

IN MEMORY OF

Aaron Krug

Sheila Fish

continued from page 4

Artist

Yoel Sykes and Daphna Rosenberg
of Nava Tehila

What of theirs have we heard?

We frequently sing
their *Oseh Shalom* at
TBS - whether that be at
Shabbat evening services
or in our education
programs. We also have
shared their melodies for
L'cha Dodi and *Zam'ru
Ladonai*.



Where can we hear more?

Sykes and Rosenberg represent the Jerusalem-based renewal
Jewish community known as *Nava Tehila*. *Nava Tehila* has
released a number of albums that are available on Spotify
and Apple Music, and they have many musical resources
available at navatehila.org

Artist

Elana Arian

What of hers have we heard?

We frequently share her
Hinei Mah Tov, which
is sung not only in
Hebrew, but in English
and Arabic as well. As
well, her song "I Have
a Voice" has become an
anthem for Jewish social
justice in the recent past.



Where can we hear more?

Elana's albums *A Spark of Light* and *The Other Side of Fear* are
available on all major streaming services, and you can take a
deeper dive into her music at elanaarian.com



Yahrzeits

MAY 5, 2023

Marsha Gayle Alperin
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Gertrude Berkowitz
Laurel Fay Brandt
Sheldon Canal
Eva Davis
Barbara Eckstein
Anita Eriksson
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Albert Timmerman
Jason J Timmons

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MAY 19

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Burton Aptheker
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Irving Baker
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MAY 26

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May God Remember Our Loved Ones and Bring Comfort to...

Judy and David Pearl
on the passing of their brother and brother-in-law, Charles Jaffe

Al and Helen Silverstein, David Silverstein (of blessed memory)
Suzanne and Larry Stein and Michael Silverstein and Kari Hironaka
Socks and Mia Stein and Celeste and Ling Silverstein
on the passing of their sister, aunt and great-aunt, Rhoda Silverstein

Phil and Ellen Ades
Rachel and Jeff, Janey and Bram, Andy and Arielle, and Lindsey and Mac
Jake, Max, and Robbie
on the passing of their father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Alan A. Ades

Wendy and Bill Shulman, Sophie and Simon
on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Arlyne Brunswick

Shayne Gilbert, Marlie Kass
Brenda Kass, Michael and Penny and Ronald
Alyssa and Robert Stern, Sue Gilbert and Morris Singer,
and Barry Gilbert and Jenny Santori
Evan, Matthew, and Dylan, Max and Dora, and Celia
on the passing of their husband, father, son, brother and uncle, Bob Kass

Bernie and Cheryl Segaloff
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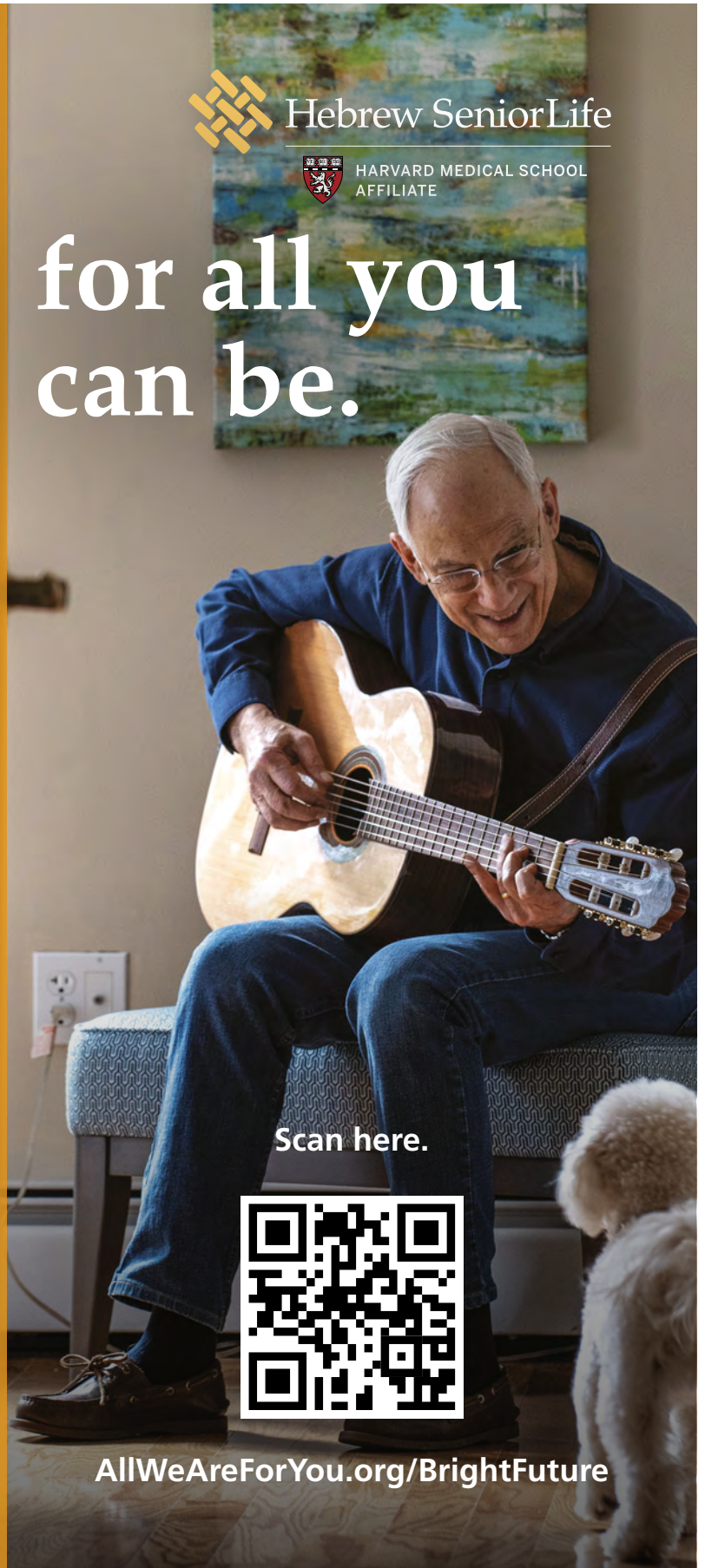


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