

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom – Needham, Massachusetts

December 2023

Kislev/Tevet 5784



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Initiative

Refugee and immigration support has become an integral part of Temple Beth Shalom's Tikkun Olam and Tzedek work. Our community has stepped up in inspiring ways to continue working and learning together about how we can have an even greater impact on the lives of refugees in our midst.

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED

...in Ukraine become dire, TBS members

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On the Cover

"Refugee Resettlement Initiative"
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To join the *Scroll* Editorial Board,
please email: scroll@tbsneedham.org

To contribute content,
go to: tbsneedham.org/submit

From the Editorial Board

Please note: Due to time needed for layout, printing, and distribution, the content of this Scroll does not reflect information or events after November 1.

For many of us, our introduction to refugees was an adorable family slipping out during their curtain call and disappearing into the mountains of Switzerland, eventually establishing a lodge in Vermont and being celebrated in the Sound of Music Tour in Salzburg. The harsh realities of their journey were hidden, but today's news ensures that we - and our children - know on some level the pain and difficulty each person who tries to escape oppression faces.

As you read how TBS members who were once refugees themselves have joined our congregation's efforts to help Ukrainian refugees, you will certainly think about others who have fled - or are attempting to flee - for safety. Holocaust survivors who hid and crossed borders surreptitiously. Latin American families who seek freedom from violence. People who flee civil wars in the Middle East and in Africa. Families who want an end to being used as human shields by terrorists. And a nation reeling from atrocities inflicted by terrorists — a homeland for Jews surrounded by enemies who want to annihilate their nation.

We pray each day for the safety of all innocent lives. We pray that those in Israel will be able to fight successfully for Israel's future, to stay there safely, and to continue to maintain and live a normal life in their Jewish homeland. But we must do more than pray. Our bold assertions of "Never again" must spur us to action. This *Scroll* and our Temple website suggest ways we can help make a difference.

While we will continue to include information on Israel in the *Scroll*, we will also continue our usual coverage of a wide range of news, events, and items of interest. Please help us by responding to what's below.

Read any good Jewish books lately? Any Jewish movies or shows you'd recommend?

Whether in writing or on stage, live or recorded, here's an opportunity to share and learn from others' ideas for things to read, see, or do through a Jewish lens. Please give specifics and feel free to comment on what makes it great. Photos welcome. Word limit: 150. Deadline: December 15. Email scroll@tbsneedham.org.

Is your kugel to kvell over?

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

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

By Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board

Services in December

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 (19 Kislev 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 (19 Kislev 5784)

Torah: *Vayishlach* Gen. 32:4 - 36:43

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

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

B. Mitzvah: Laura Koslow

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 (26 Kislev 5784)

5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 (26 Kislev 5784)

Torah: *Vayeishev* Gen. 37:1 - 40:23

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

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

B. Mitzvah: Segev Kramer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 (4 Tevet 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 (4 Tevet 5784)

Torah: *Mikeitz* Gen. 41:1 - 44:17

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

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

B. Mitzvah: Bella Etscovitz

B. Mitzvah: Caitlin Cooper

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 (11 Tevet 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23 (11 Tevet 5784)

Torah: *Vayigash* Gen. 44:18 - 47:27

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 (18 Tevet 5784)

6:15 PM Erev Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 (18 Tevet 5784)

Torah: *Vayechi* Gen. 47:28 - 50:26

8:30 AM Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)

9:00 AM Torah Study (Beit Midrash)

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

Please join the TBS Community for *Minyan*

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

Committee Meetings in December – Stay Involved!

Committees not listed will not meet formally this month.

Committee Name

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

Date and Time

Thur. Dec. 7, 7:45 PM
Fri. Dec. 8, 10:30 AM
Tue. Dec. 12, 7:15 PM
Wed. Dec. 20, 7:15 PM
Tue. Dec. 5, 7:15 PM
Every Wednesday, 9:30 AM
Tue. Dec. 19, 12:00 PM

Email Contact for Information

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

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



From Our Clergy

TBS Travels to Morocco: Join Us!

By Rabbi Todd Markley



A very special Chanukah celebration was held in Morocco in December of 2020. In Casablanca's Olympic Stadium, many of Morocco's roughly 3,000 Jews were in attendance to celebrate a modern-day miracle — the normalization of diplomatic ties between the Muslim nation of Morocco and the State of Israel. Since that time, we have seen sweetness and light added to our world as waves of Jews have, at long last, been able to visit Morocco, see its extraordinary sites, taste its delicious food, meet its people, and learn the rich history of the Jewish people in that land.



by our trip's guest scholar, Dr. David Mendelsohn. In addition to having led many trips to Morocco, Dr. Mendelsohn has expertise in areas including Islamic Studies, History and Culture of Arabs with Israeli Citizenship, Bedouin Law, and the relationship between language and culture in Arabic and Hebrew. He has

built relationships with a number of key leaders in Morocco; thanks to his connections, we will get to meet and learn from them.

Our upcoming TBS trip to Morocco will take flight in March just when Purim arrives, an appropriate departure date given that we will be heading to a nation with a king – a norm in the days of Esther and the Purim story, but a

Give yourself the Chanukah gift of an amazing travel experience with your TBS community this year! This trip is for adults in our community. More information can be found in the full-page description in this edition of the *Scroll*, and further details are available at the trip website: t-b-s.me/morocco.



I hope you'll join us for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wish you and your families a Chanukah season this year that brings added light into your lives and into our world!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Todd

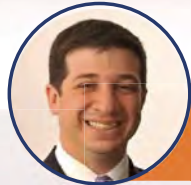
foreign concept to most Jews in the modern world. The trip will include visits to Fez, Casablanca, Marrakesh, and more, with a wonderful local guide leading us on our way. Our learning of the Jewish history of Morocco will be enhanced



JOIN TEMPLE BETH SHALOM ON AN ADVENTURE IN MOROCCO

Led by **Rabbi Todd Markley**

with **Scholar-in-Residence Dr. David Mendelsohn**



March 24 - April 4, 2024

Be ready for the adventure of a lifetime in Morocco! We'll explore the ancient Jewish communities, meander through the medinas, savor the spices and flavors of the local cuisine and soak up the culture from Casablanca to Marrakech and beyond!

ON OUR ADVENTURE WE WILL:

- Discover Jewish heritage and history in **Casablanca, Marrakech, Fes** and beyond
- Experience the different lifestyles and cultures of Moroccans in **urban and rural communities** dotting the landscape
- Bring to light the glory of **Moroccan Jewry** from past to present
- Savor the flavors of Morocco with a taste of local delicacies at the **bustling marketplaces**
- Celebrate **Kabbalat Shabbat** with members of the Marrakech Jewish community
- Explore the **mellahs (Jewish quarters)** of Casablanca and Marrakech, once home to brilliant scholars, poets and innovators

...and so much more!!

Learn more about this amazing trip at
secure.ayelet.com/MarkleyMorocco2024.aspx



PRICING CHART (based on double occupancy)	CHECK/CASH PRICE	CREDIT CARD PRICE
LAND TOUR	\$4,800	\$4,945
ADD FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY	\$1,450	\$1,495

ABOUT DR. MENDELSON:

We are delighted that we have been able to secure Dr. David Mendelsohn to join us on our trip to Morocco - in addition to our local guide - to bring added depth to our learning as we travel the country together. In addition to having led trips to Morocco in the past for Kivunim, Professor Mendelsohn's areas of expertise include Islamic Studies, History and Culture of Arabs with Israeli Citizenship, Bedouin Law and the relationship between language and culture in Arabic and Hebrew. Mendelsohn also lectures on the history and relationships between Middle East countries and militant organizations. David holds advanced degrees in diverse fields: a Ph.D. Classics / Linguistics, an M.A. in Archaeology / Linguistics and an Honours B.A. in Classical Studies. David is the recipient of one of Canada's highest academic honors, The Trudeau Prize. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife Ronny and 3 children.



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From Our Board of Trustees

Light Within Our Community

By Wendy Gutterson, Congregational President



I'd like to say that we are living in a time of unprecedented violence and hate — that never before have we seen war based on religious beliefs or persecution of individuals because of ethnicity. I'd like to believe that the suffering among all residents of Israel and Gaza, Palestinian and Israeli and residents from other nations, is exaggerated or an aberration of a typical peaceful co-existence. But we all know that simply isn't true.

What we do know to be true is that it's okay to not be okay. It makes sense to be sad, angry, worried. We are all concerned for our children: our children in Israel, the children of people we have never met, our children here in our TBS Community.

What we also know to be true is that we are stronger in community. We are stronger when we hold each other, when

we study together, worship together, dream together, speak up together, and make a difference together. We are stronger when we participate in communal life, in communal Jewish life. During some of our saddest and most challenging life moments, Temple Beth Shalom is where we come to feel the light and warmth of being together.

And so it seems fitting as Chanukah approaches that we turn towards the light, that we take our Chanukah menorahs off the shelves, out of cabinets, and get ready to add as much light as possible to the world. Let's use extra candles this year, light multiple menorahs, and do what we can to make the world just a little bit brighter during the days ahead.

LShalom,
Wendy

CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH TBS

Sunday, December 3:

Dreidel Hunt | 10am-1:30pm

Monday, December 4:

Sisterhood Chanukah Party | 6:30pm

Thursday, December 7:

Cocktail Hour 6:30pm

Zamir Chanukah Concert | 7:30pm

Friday, December 8:

Tot Shabbat | 5:30pm

Shabbat Services | 6:15pm

Chanukah Community Dinner | 7:30pm

Saturday, December 9:

Teddy Bear Chanukah | 9am

for Families with Young Children



To register and for more information, visit tbsneedham.org/chanukah.



B. Mitzvah

Laura Koslow, Saturday, December 2

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Laura loves to play volleyball, spend time with her friends, and be at her summer camp in NH.

Mitzvah Project: Laura organized a food drive for the Needham Community Council to help support local families in need.

Segev Kramer, Saturday, December 9

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Segie loves spending summers at Camp Eisner, dogs, singing, cooking, baking, playing soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football.

Mitzvah Project: Segie sold homemade treats to raise money for funding type 1 diabetes research through the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Bella Etscovitz, Saturday, December 16

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Bella loves swimming, baking, theater, Camp Tevya, going to the beach and hanging out with friends.

Mitzvah Project: Bella volunteers at NewBridge looking at art with residents with dementia, and plans to continue her volunteering there.

Caitlin Cooper, Saturday, December 16

School: Pollard Middle School

Interests: Caitlin likes to play sports and loves spending her summers at Forest Acres Camp.

Mitzvah Project: Focusing on food insecurity, Caitlin held food drives and volunteered at Newton Community Farm.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alyssa and Andrew Arens and Eleanor (3) and Cecilia (1)
Miriam and Gary Baker and Jonathan (not yet 1)
Paul and Elana Brockmann and Delia (2)
Deirdre Goode and Sara Isaacson and Finnegan (not yet 1)
Lindsey Kaplan
Paul Schlapobersky and Judith Michelman and Leo (9)



December Highlights

ConNEXTionsPLUS Trivia

Sunday, December 3, 9:30-11:30 AM, TBS

Join us for a morning of fun trivia and a bagel breakfast! ConNEXTionsPLUS welcomes you to take your chance at winning a cash prize while spending time with the amazing ConNEXTionsPLUS community. Admission price is \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Register: t-b-s.me/trivia

Contact: Craig Lustig at clustig@tbsneedham.org



Latkes, Laughs, and Lights - Sisterhood Chanukah Party

Monday, December 4, 6:30-9:00 PM, Outside of Temple

Join us for a fun-filled evening with your Sisterhood friends. Enjoy appetizers, latkes, desserts, drinks and more. **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:** our White Elephant Swap [you bring an item from home to “re-gift” in exchange for someone else’s re-gifted item]! We’ll be playing our unique spin (pun intended) on a really fun party game; participation is optional.

Register: t-b-s.me/SHChanukah

Contact: TBS Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Chanukah Cocktail Hour

Thursday, December 7, 6:30-7:30 PM, TBS

Join us for a lovely cocktail hour before the Zamir concert (see below) to enjoy appetizers, drinks, and connecting with community. You are welcome to attend both the cocktail hour and the concert or either event on its own.

Register: t-b-s.me/chanukahcocktails

Contact: Craig Lustig at clustig@tbsneedham.org

Zamir Chanukah Concert

Thursday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Join us as we light the first night’s Chanukah candles with The Zamir Chorale of Boston! After an enthusiastic response to last year’s concert, Zamir — whose choristers include TBS members Alli Aaron, Cantor DJ Fortine, and Liana Perlman — will present a program featuring 75 years of music from Israel and a musical celebration of the first night of Chanukah.

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, performing on stages across Europe, Israel, and North America, has achieved the distinction for setting the bar for Jewish musical excellence and innovation with its mission of bringing the joy of Jewish music that transcends age, religious, and ethnic background to audiences throughout the world. Zamir has remained committed to the highest quality performance of music that spans thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles, both popular and classical. Its founder and artistic director, Josh Jacobson, an award-winning conductor (and recent TBS Scholar-in-Residence), is now considered to be one of the world’s leading authorities on Jewish choral music.

Register: t-b-s.me/zamir

Contact: Cantor DJ at djfortine@tbsneedham.org



Chanukah Community Dinner

Friday, December 8, 7:30 PM, TBS

Celebrate Chanukah with our monthly TBS Community Dinner following evening Shabbat services. We will have a delicious dinner, activities, a *sufganiyot* (donut) making station, and a community candle lighting so bring your favorite Chanukah menorah. Free and open to all members.

Register: t-b-s.me/chanukahdinner

Contact: Craig Lustig at clustig@tbsneedham.org

TBS Brotherhood Community Blood Drive

Sunday, December 10, 6:00 AM-3:00 PM, TBS

Continuing our *minhag* (tradition), TBS Brotherhood is pleased to announce our annual December blood drive. We will once again be serving the traditional bagels and lox feast, as well as sweet treats and individually wrapped snacks, along with lots of love and heartfelt appreciation.

To donate blood: t-b-s.me/giveblood

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

Contact: donateblood@tbsneedham.org or Alan Novick and Charles Wilson at brotherhood@tbsneedham.org



Sisterhood Presents: Relax and Rejuvenate

Sunday, December 10, 7:00-9:00 PM, TBS

Using meditation and visualization to reduce anxiety and find deep inner peace, let the busy pace of your life slip away during a guided meditation led by Julie Bailit, Mind/Body Coach. Learn simple ways to decrease worry and increase calm using your breath and your imagination.

Register: t-b-s.me/rejuvenate

Contact: Sisterhood at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

Beth Shalom Garden Club's Winter Blooms

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30-9:00 PM, TBS

Michele Schuckel of Natural Selections will present a program about amaryllis and paperwhite blooms. Michele is a Master Gardener and designs native gardens. She will inform us of the origin and history of amaryllis and paperwhites, provide tips for their care, and introduce creative and unique ways to pot bulbs for designing beautiful arrangements. She will be a useful resource for helping us grow and care for the bulbs that were purchased at the Garden Club fundraiser earlier this year.

Guests are welcome with a fee; first meeting is free.

For information and to RSVP contact: gardenclub@tbsneedham.org

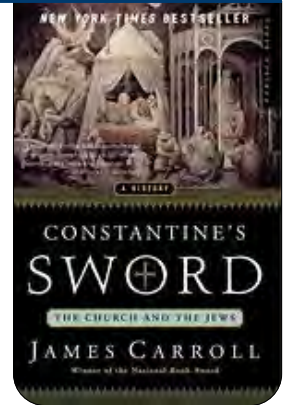


December Highlights continued...

The Michael Sockol Jewish Writers Fund Presents: James Carroll - The History of the Church and the Jews

Sunday, December 17, 9:30-11:30 AM, TBS

Our first Michael Sockol Jewish Writers Fund speaker will be noted author and *Boston Globe* columnist James Carroll. In his seminal book *Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews*, Mr. Carroll (a former priest) describes a central tragedy of Western civilization. The Church's failure to protest the Holocaust — the infamous "silence" of Pius XII — is only part of the story. The death camps, Carroll shows, are the culmination of a long, entrenched tradition of anti-Judaism. From Gospel accounts of the death of Jesus on the cross to Constantine's transformation of the cross into a sword to the rise of blood libels, scapegoating, and modern antisemitism, Carroll reconstructs the dramatic story of the Church's conflict not only with Jews but with itself.



Drawing from *Constantine's Sword*, Mr. Carroll will present the historical roots of antisemitism in the Church and share his insights into the pernicious attitudes toward Judaism that continue to incite prejudice and violence today. Familiarity with the book is not necessary to engage in this presentation, presented to you by the Adult Learning Committee and the TBS Antisemitism Awareness Initiative.

This event is open to members and guests. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free for members, \$10 per non-member

Register: t-b-s.me/jamescarroll

Contact: adultlearning@tbsneedham.org

Project Ezra - A Mitzvah You'll Never Forget

Monday, December 25, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, TBS

Temple Beth Shalom will once again join hands with the Needham Community Council to provide dinners on Christmas Day. Each year the need seems to increase, so please help us; we cannot do this mitzvah without you.

Volunteers are needed to:

- carve the turkeys
- assemble the dinners
- deliver the dinners

To volunteer: Contact Lois Sockol at 781-864-2393 or Anne Braunstein at 617-462-2214

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

Contact: Lois Sockol at projectezra@tbsneedham.org



Recurring Events

Pre-Shabbat Yoga

Fridays, 9:00-10:00 AM, December 1, 15, 22, TBS

Step into fall 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.

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

Contact: Stephanie Javaheri at yoga@tbsneedham.org



Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah

Led by Rabbi Bob Orkand every Saturday, 9:15-10:15 AM, TBS

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

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

Contact: Jessica Baim at jbaim@tbsneedham.org



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

Sundays, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 10, April 7, May 9 (Thursday), and June 2, 12:00 PM, Online

For many years, Congregation Mevasseret Zion, a progressive community outside Jerusalem, has been Temple Beth Shalom's “sister congregation.” During this time when hundreds of thousands of Israelis are rising up to protect democracy in Israel, we will be showing solidarity and support through a series of personal conversations between members of the TBS community and members of CMZ. Each month, we will gather on Zoom for a rich discussion (full-group and small-group) facilitated by Rabbi Perlman and Rabbi Alona Nir Keren of CMZ. Through our shared explorations, we will get to know one another, learn about similarities and differences between American and Israeli expressions of Reform/Progressive Judaism, and learn how we might help Israelis support democracy.

Register: t-b-s.me/israeldiscussion

(You are not committed to attending every session to participate. Please join us when you are able!)

Contact: Rabbi Perlman at jperlman@tbsneedham.org

Israeli Dancing

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18, 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.

Cost: \$5 per session, which is paid when you attend.

Contact: Emily Perlman at eperlman@tbsneedham.org



Recurring Events continued...

Sisterhood Mah Jongg

Thursdays, December 7, January 4, February 1, 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!

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

Register: t-b-s.me/mahjongg

Moms Supporting Moms

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

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

Contact: Jackie Waller, Liz Webb Green, or Michelle Hoffman at sisterhood@tbsneedham.org

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

Friday, December 15, 9:15-9:45 AM, TBS parking lot

We are back for our fourth year of this popular TBS Social Action mitzvah project! 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

Om Shalom Yoga Service

Friday, December 15, 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



Sisterhood Canasta

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

Join other Sisterhood members on the third Thursday of the month for canasta. New and seasoned players are welcome!

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

Register: t-b-s.me/canasta

Save the Date

Follow-Up Discussion Group: *Constantine's Sword* Exploring the Historical Origins of Religious Antisemitism

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

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

Contact: adultlearning@tbsneedham.org



Fighting Antisemitism

"Everything is not fine. Israel has a right to defend itself, and that's the right that we know. Your fight is our fight...."

Mayor Eric Adams, New York City



Crisis in Israel



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM



It is hard to keep up with the news of Israel - of both the overall situation and the individual struggles and efforts. We hear about atrocities we thought would never happen again. We hear about war, rockets, hostages. We also hear life-affirming reports of Israelis standing outside for five hours on October 8 — as rockets fell and terrorists were still being tracked in their midst — so they could donate blood. We hear about them tending to the wounds of those who survived the attacks as well as those who inflicted them. We hear about boys who are outfitted as soldiers, when just yesterday they were dressed for high school. We hear about reservists — parents who leave their families and go back into the military to do everything they can to defend their country. And we worry and wonder how we can help.

We have included some helpful resources below; many more are available on our TBS website. Please visit tbsneedham.org/crisis-in-Israel for our most up-to-date information.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT ISRAEL

- ◆ **United Hatzalah**, the largest independent, non-profit, fully volunteer emergency medical service in Israel, seeks funds to provide urgent medical supplies and other necessary gear. israelrescue.org/campaign/israel-at-war-2
- ◆ **Maglan**, an elite special forces unit of the IDF, has an unprecedented number of reservists lacking basic equipment to keep them safe and warm as they fight on the front lines to defend the country. This 501(c)(3) uses the money it gets today to purchase urgently needed non-military equipment the very next day. maglan.org
- ◆ **Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) Israel Emergency Fund** allocates 100% of contributions towards supporting victims of terror and addressing unprecedented levels of trauma through partner agencies in Israel. ma.cjp.org

WAYS TO SHOW SUPPORT AT HOME

Blue Ribbons for Israel

TBS is joining with Jewish communities and organizations across the country in the Blue Ribbon Program. Wearing a ribbon sends a message to the people of Israel and those connected with them that they are not alone. Blue ribbons are available at TBS at the Welcome Desk.

Outreach to Our Muslim Neighbors

During this time of crisis, we are mindful that our Muslim neighbors are also experiencing trauma and difficulty. The terrorism in Israel was perpetrated by Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization. As Israel has properly noted, the innocent people of Gaza and the Muslim community are not enemies of Israel or of the Jewish people. As we stand against antisemitism in any form, we also strongly stand against Islamophobia in any form.





GETTING SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Emotional and Spiritual Support for Adults and Children

Our clergy are here for adults and children, both at home and away at college, and invite you to reach out to them. In addition, the TBS website has information to support children of all ages.

If you are in need of professional emotional support, Jewish Family & Children's Service provides free, confidential referrals and advice from trusted professionals. For more information, call JF&CS Boston at 781-693-5562 or email them at mentalhealth@jfcsboston.org

TBS Shabbat as a Sanctuary of Peace

As always, our TBS Shabbat services are a place to help find comfort, strength, and express prayers for peace. Each week, we will share a prayer for Israel and for all who pursue peace, before which we will focus our hearts upon those who are in need of support or who are in Israel at this time. As well, for thirty days ("Sheloshim"), we will recite the names of loved ones who have died in the current violence before we recite Kaddish. To share with us the names of loved ones, please go to t-b-s.me/names.

Safety and Security

TBS remains in close contact with the Needham Police Department, the security team at CJP, and the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that we are keeping our community safe. Our community has invested in security personnel, technology, and resources. We want to send a special "thank you!" to the Needham Police Department for their extra support during this difficult time.

STAYING INFORMED

Combined Jewish Philanthropies has updated jewishboston.com to provide helpful resources regarding the current crisis in Israel. For the most recent information regarding what is happening in Israel, numerous Israeli outlets provide both in-the-moment information, as well as analysis and commentary. These include Haaretz, The Times of Israel, The Jerusalem Post, and ynetnews.

Our Temple Beth Shalom community continues to reach out to Israel and one another during this time of crisis. If we may be of support to you and your family, please don't hesitate to contact our clergy and staff.



TBS Welcomes Ukrainian Immigrants

By Rob Andrews

The TBS community had the opportunity to stand up once again and welcome even more people coming to our shores. In partnership with Jewish Family Services of MetroWest and the Shapiro Foundation, Temple Beth Shalom's Children's Center (TBSCC) has been able to participate in the United 4 Ukraine (U4U) Labor Pathways Program by hiring a number of women from Ukraine to become teachers at our Children's Center. By the beginning of June, three amazing women joined the TBSCC staff and one's five-year-old daughter participated in the TBSCC summer camp. In my role, I have been able to spend hours with these women, and I can tell you we are so lucky to have them be part of our community. It is a tragedy why they felt the need to leave their home country, but it is truly our community's gain. They are intelligent, resilient, strong, warm, and so kind.

Through the efforts of volunteers, we have been able to provide furnished apartments at below-market rental rates, have a toy drive, take them to health and immigration appointments, bring them shopping at the market, provide them with two months of public transportation, and generally welcome them to the community.

Why We as Individuals Help Immigrants and Refugees

There is a small core of volunteers who have gone above and beyond helping these Ukrainians in their transition to living in the United States. **Many of these TBS volunteers came to our country in the late 1980s as children, fleeing the former Soviet Union during a time of unprecedented antisemitism.** Seeing them helping others years later is quite powerful to watch.

But why are other Jews so giving to the Ukrainians coming to the US and to refugees as a whole? My response is simple: almost every Jew in the North American diaspora has at least one ancestor who was a refugee or an immigrant who had to flee because of a war or discrimination, or both. On my own family tree, my family fled pogroms in the Pale of Settlement, coming to the US in around 1900. When I said "yes" to helping our first Afghan family, I had no idea what I was signing up for, but I did it to honor all our ancestors who fled persecution or war.

Giving Back

When we say "yes" whenever our TBS community gets a call to see if TBS's Refugee Resettlement Initiative wants to be part of the next endeavor, we honor all those who came before us. We all give back in different ways; if you would like to be part of our work, please contact us at refugee@tbsneedham.org or connect with the clergy, and we can find a way for you to make an impact, either with a financial donation or with your time. Unfortunately, there is not an end in sight for refugees and immigrants to help resettle. Our work continues.

Three TBS Immigrants Remember and Help

Irene Berlinsky

My family were Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union and we immigrated from Minsk, Belarus when I was seven years old. It must have been a challenging time for my parents, but my memories of that time are positive: I made friends with the Russian-Jewish immigrant kids next door, learned English in ESL class, and was thrilled with my first Barbie doll. As we built our new life, we were fortunate to be welcomed by wonderful volunteers with whom my family still keeps in touch decades later.



I've always had an interest in refugee work but had done little until I saw the TBS email. And then it just clicked into place – of course I had to help! I speak Russian, was an immigrant myself, and our kids came up through the Children's Center. Remembering the kindness of the volunteers in my childhood, I wanted to pay it forward.

The volunteer experience started in the grandest way possible – a dramatic airport greeting of Alina, the first arrival, with news cameras and Congressman Jake Auchincloss in attendance! As we began to help with driving to appointments, navigating medical care, exploring the nearby grocery stores, and a million other tasks, I couldn't imagine anyone doing this with no support network and no car. I also thought about how their experience differed from my own – I came with my family, while they sometimes left their closest loved ones behind. We arrived with permission to stay for good; this program guarantees only two years.

All in all, it was a meaningful experience for me, and I hope I was able to ease their transition to the US and TBS.

Igor Khislavsky



We came to the U.S. in 1989 as Jewish refugees from Kyiv. My parents made the decision to start completely over because they knew that as Jews, we would not have the same opportunities in Ukraine as we would in America. In 1989, this was an unquestioned fact. Ukraine had ALWAYS been the part of the Soviet Union that was the most antisemitic.

When the Russians invaded Ukraine in February of 2022, the script was flipped. Ukraine had a Jewish president (!!) and they were well on their way to becoming a real western-style democracy. Over the next several weeks, I watched unspeakable atrocities unfold in places where I spent much of the first few years of my life. A park in Irpin where I collected some of my first mushrooms (still a passion of mine to this day) became the site of unspeakable brutality and carnage. Women, children, and the elderly were indiscriminately massacred on the same ground where my family had spent time many years ago.

When I heard TBS was working with the Shapiro Foundation to bring teachers from Ukraine here, it was a no-brainer to be a small part of the effort. Selfishly, it was a way to reconnect with my roots while breaking out of the privileged bubble we all live in here, if only for an hour or two here or there. Being able to spend time with these

women has been a powerful reminder of human struggle and perseverance – and of the challenges refugees face, even in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. I'm hopeful that our community has made a positive difference, and I'm grateful to be able to contribute a small piece.

Elena Silverman



This spring, refugees from Ukraine began arriving under the U4U Program. A group of volunteers assisted in their transition to the United States. I was one of those volunteers, using my ability to speak Russian to assist in providing translation services to the new arrivals. The experience brought me back to memories of my own immigration experience. In 1989, when I was five, the Iron Curtain fell around the former Soviet Union. My parents took the opportunity, rounded up my grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousin, and we all made our way to Czechoslovakia from Moldova. As we had turned over all our possessions in exchange for the documentation that allowed us to leave, we bartered bottles of vodka for train tickets. From Czechoslovakia we made our way to a little town



TBS Welcomes Ukrainian Immigrants

continued...

outside of Rome, Italy, called Santa Marinella, a beautiful seaside town. For six months, I spent my time carefree, pursuing what children do: playing, taking walks, being read to. I spoke Italian before I ever spoke English. For the adults in my family, this was the opposite of a carefree jaunt in the Italian seaside as our future was far from certain. They awaited the decision as to whether asylum would be granted in America, all the while debating whether to take the recruiters up on their offers and seek their futures in Israel, which offered far more immediacy. Waiting was very difficult as my parents and my aunt and uncle were very eager to start making steps towards securing a future for the family after being barred from making steps towards this in Moldova due to overt and implied antisemitism and a general lack of opportunity for all. Eventually, the difficult wait was over, and my family was granted asylum in America. Boston was selected as our destination due to the proximity to a distant relative of my grandmother. This was my grandmother's last remaining family member, as the rest of her family had been killed in Ukraine in WWII. In 1990, we arrived stateside.

The very same organizations that assisted my family in getting our feet under us as refugees when we arrived in America are now assisting these new arrivals from Ukraine. It has been a full-circle moment for me to be part of the transition experience for these new arrivals, and I feel incredibly blessed to be able to offer similar support to those in need. 🕍

Meet Our New 5th – 7th Grade Program: Shorashim!

By Emily Kestenbaum and Hannah Elbaum

Shorashim, our newest K-12 learning program, is for children in grades 5 through 7. Meaning “roots,” Shorashim reconfigures and replaces Jr. Etzim, and serves as a bridge between our Mayim program (now grades K-4) and our Etzim program (grades 8-12). Our new logo shows how the children in our programs grow and flow, from water (Mayim) to roots (Shorashim) into trees (Etzim).

Thematically, our K-4 Mayim curricula all focus on how we are Jewish and part of the Jewish family. In 5th grade, our curriculum transitions to focus more on how our preteens fit into the Jewish people and how they want to create an impact on the world.

By separating grades 5-7 into their own program, we are recognizing the unique identity of our pre-teens and young teens. It's a special time in their lives as they gain independence and responsibility. It had become clear to us that 5th graders no longer fit into our elementary learning program. By the end of 5th grade, they are practically middle schoolers already!



Our new K-12 logo incorporating Mayim Tamid, Mayim, Shorashim, and Etzim. Designed by TBS member Ed Shems.





5th graders engaged in learning during Shorashim.

With this change, we are able to honor our 5th (and 6th and 7th) graders where they are, creating an intentional program that emphasizes building community with each other and builds excitement for a milestone moment in their Jewish lives: their B. Mitzvah. Across Shorashim, program time now includes a dedicated space for community-building activities as we support our preteens in their social connections with each other.

In our curriculum, 5th graders focus on prayer and tzedakah, and begin the process of understanding what our community needs. In 6th grade, after an exploration of ritual, children create their own special ritual object to use at their B. Mitzvah and throughout their lives. They also expand on their tzedakah learning by partnering with local organizations and committing their time and energy to supporting

local efforts such as with Hope & Comfort and the Needham Community Farm.

As 7th graders, the students look closely at our world, seeing where they fit in: “As a Jewish person, what values do I bring to my Jewish community, and how can I make a positive impact, especially in the face of antisemitism?” They also enjoy 7th grade programming on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, parallel to our Etzim program, allowing them to see how many teens enthusiastically choose to join our programming in 8th-12th grade. This will help bridge their next transition, from Shorashim to Etzim.

As our 5th to 7th graders naturally explore personal and group identities, their Shorashim experience gives them Jewish guidance as they work to discover who they are individually and as a community. 🕯️



7th graders playing a game together during Community Time.



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 Lillian Rozen
 Vladimir Rozenberg
 Allan Shapiro
 Barnet Shapiro
 Angela Sheridan
 Oscar Jerry Smith
 Victoria Sonsino
 Steve Stearns
 Hazel Stieber
 Robert Tucker
 Miriam Weisman
 William Weisman
 Arlene J. Wolk
 Alan Zaff
 Raphael Zahler

DECEMBER 22

Ruth Ades
 Jason Appelstein
 Silvia Berkman
 Rosalie "Lee" Binder
 Harold Brody
 Rose Bycoff
 Israel Cohen
 Shirley Rosenberg Cohen
 Billy Cotton
 David Darish
 Jacob Davis
 Melvin "Mel" Davis
 Stanton Davis
 Helene Deutsch
 Hannah Feibelman
 Shirley Freedman
 Blanche B. Gamel
 Morris Gerber
 Ida Gilvarg
 Sam Goldstein
 Eleanor "Ellie" Jacobs
 Leonard Jacobs
 Carol Kalish
 Carol Kaplan
 Sidney Kaufman
 Florence Kurr
 Sylvia Kveskin
 Abraham Landy
 Aaron Lederman
 Bess Lemack
 Edward Leventhal
 Rebecca Leventhal
 Ira Levy
 Grace Lipson
 Judith Lissy
 Goldie Phillips
 Ruth Sandler
 Jane Schnitman
 Bessie Sherman
 Nathan Silverstein
 Gloria Sloane
 Samuel Suckney
 Judith Wallack
 Louis Wolfson
 Lucile Zinman

DECEMBER 29

Saul Adams
 Janet Gellman Bailin
 Mildred "Millie" Baritz
 Estelle Berman
 Nahum Bernstein
 Jane Mandel Blitz
 Natale Bober
 Esther Salomon Bogin
 Harvey Bramson
 Madeleine Bramson
 Earl Martin Burtman
 Rosalie Chudnofsky
 Mark Cramer
 Sidney Crastnopol
 Harold Cutter
 Wilfred Davis
 Karen Donahue
 Rose Farber
 Elizabeth Ferguson
 Besse Fisher
 Jacob Francer
 William Goldman
 Barbara Goldstein
 Ida Goldstein
 Warren Goodman
 Michael Gorman
 Abraham Gorodetsky
 Paul Granek
 Patricia "Patti" L.
 Grossman
 Stephen Harmon
 Jon Kahn
 Larry S. Karlin
 Gloria Kohn
 Patricia Koritz
 Barry Kutok
 Judy Lourie
 Edward Morse
 Roger Pascal
 Bernice Pearlman
 Florence M. Perlman
 Sonny Pinals
 Jackson Pollack
 Alice Rosenblatt
 Sandra Rubin
 Richard "Rudin" Salinger
 Edward C. Saltzberg
 Louis Savrin
 Thomas Schwab
 Phyllis Schwartz
 Pearl Seidenberg
 Gertrude Shaffer
 Denise Shapiro
 Joyce Shapiro
 Benjamin Sheetz
 Sylvia Sherman
 Rose Shulman
 Izadore Silverstein
 Harold Stavisky
 Elliott Stone
 Gertrude Ullian
 Jane Walk
 Sara Weiner
 Joanne Cohen Weissman
 Sol White
 Rose Zakon

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

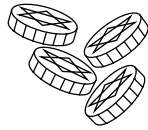
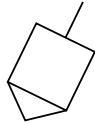
Ben and Elyse Marsh, Sara and Jon
 on the passing of their father and grandfather, Joseph Marsh

Rosalie Bookston, David and Samantha Bookston
 Ellie, Robert, and Becca
 on the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, John Bookston

Cheryl and Bernie Segaloff
 Farrah and Steve Narkiewicz and Fawn Segaloff and Danny Cottler
 Stella Narkiewicz
 on the passing of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Frederick Feinstein

Ina Glasberg
 on the passing of her sister-in-law, Heide Davis
 Susan Carp, Karen Carp Lennon, and Julie Carp
 on the passing of their brother and uncle, Robert Kowal





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Project EZRA 2023: Still in Need

Monday, December 25

On Monday, December 25, Temple Beth Shalom will once again join hands with the Needham Community Council to provide dinners on Christmas Day.

Each year the need seems to increase, so please help us; we cannot do this mitzvah without you.



Volunteers are needed to:

- carve turkeys
- assemble dinners
- deliver meals to the awaiting recipient's door

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