

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom - Needham, Massachusetts

November 2015

Cheshvan/Kislev 5776



The TBS Cancer Survivorship Community

Page 8

America's Journey for Justice

Page 18

Maintaining Jewish Connections in College

Page 6

Volume 43, Issue 3

IN THIS ISSUE

A Reflection on Compassion	4
B'nei Mitzvah	5
Maintaining Jewish Connections in College	6
A Jewish Approach to Applying to College	7
The TBS Cancer Survivorship Community	8
The Needham Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	9
Announcements	10
Events This Month	12
Save the Date	14
Learning	16
America's Journey for Justice	18
The Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom, Cuba	19
Kid's Page	20
Contributions	21
Yahrzeits	23
Support Our Advertisers	24

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From the Editorial Board

Jewish Experiences

In this issue we are excited to feature several articles featuring people and experiences from our community. Our main feature highlights the Jewish experience and college. November is the time that the college application process is in full gear. It is also the time that our college students are fully immersed in their studies and college environment.

The Scroll this month also features touching stories about cancer and survivorship, a journey for justice, and a journey to seek Jewish community in Cuba.

We hope you enjoy reading the Scroll and would be very interested to hear your constructive feedback. Please email scroll@tbsneedham.org with your comments and suggestions!

We are also seeking out stories, pictures and interesting experiences from within our community. Your input can help make the Scroll a magazine that reflects the art, music, writings, and culture that make TBS such a vibrant center of Jewish identity and friendship.

Happy Autumn!

- *The Editorial Board*

Please join the TBS community for
Minyan Services

Monday **and** Thursday - 7:00 - 7:30 AM (TBS)
Sunday **through** Thursday - 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM (TBS)
Friday - 2:00 PM (Wingate Residences)
Saturday - 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Come and experience the warmth
of prayer, spirit and community.

From the Construction Zone

Demolition Time



What was this?



Demolition is in full gear.

NOVEMBER 2015 SERVICES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 (25 CHESHVAN 5776)

7:15 PM — *Shabbat* Contemplative Prayer Service (Rashi School)
7:15 PM — *Simchat Shabbat* Service (Rashi School)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 (25 CHESHVAN 5776)

Shabbat Chayei Sarah, Gen. 23:1 — 25:18
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (Rashi School)
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (Rashi School)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 (2 KISLEV 5776)

6:15 p.m — *Kehillah Kids Shabbat Service* (Rashi School)
6:15 PM — *Tot Shabbat* (Rashi School)
6:15 PM — *Shabbat Evening Service*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 (2 KISLEV 5776)

Torah: Toldot, Gen. 25:19 — 28:9
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (Rashi School)
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (Rashi School)
10:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Service* (Rashi School)
B'nei Mitzvah: Cecelia Wekstein and Jonathan White

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 (9 KISLEV 5776)

6:15 PM — *Shabbat Evening Service* (Rashi School)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 (9 KISLEV 5776)

Torah: VaYetze, Gen. 28:10 — 32:3
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (Rashi School)
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (Rashi School)
10:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Service*
B'nei Mitzvah: Madeline Gerber and Jason Silverman

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 (16 KISLEV 5776)

6:15 PM — *Shabbat Evening Service* (Rashi School)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28 (16 KISLEV 5776)

Torah: VaYishlach Gen. 32:4 — 36:43
8:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Minyan* (Rashi School)
9:00 AM — *Torah Study* (Rashi School)
10:30 AM — *Shabbat Morning Service* (Rashi School)
Bat Mitzvah: Grace Cohen



Coming soon to a temple near you!

A Reflection on Compassion

By Bernice Sue Behar, First Vice-President



The High Holy Days are just behind us and we are perched on the edge of Thanksgiving, followed in short order by *Hanukkah* and the secular New Year. We've gone from a time of deep personal reflection about ethical behavior, morality, and how we conduct ourselves in the world into a season that often finds us narrowing our view to the festivities involving our own inner circle. Certainly, many among us (including our own wonderful Project *Ezra* volunteers!) remember those who are less fortunate at these holidays, but the hectic pace can leave us with little time to reflect on the larger promises we made back in September. So before we take the seasonal holiday plunge... I thought I would interject a few thoughts about compassion.

I work for an organization that puts compassion at the center of its mission of caring for and improving the lives of others. Until recently, I thought about compassion in a fairly one-dimensional way. I would have described it, simply, as a "feeling of empathy for someone who faced an unfortunate situation". Then a good friend of mine, a fellow member of TBS, whose wisdom I respect, suggested a book by Karen Armstrong called, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life." I would normally be suspicious of a book that promises something so lofty at the end of a certain number of steps, but as I said, my friend is wise, so I bought the book.

Compassion, in its truest form, can only come when we practice seeing the world from the viewpoint of others

Armstrong suggests reading through her "steps to compassion" in a thoughtful, deliberate way, and so I did, taking nearly a year to read it a bit at a time, pondering her message as I went. I came to see compassion not merely as a caring feeling for those in need, but in the greater context of putting oneself in the shoes of another person (or group), even those with whom we may passionately disagree. Her argument is that compassion, in its truest form, can only come when we practice seeing the world from the viewpoint of others, especially those who challenge our own core values.

Together with thought-leaders from many faith communities, including our own, Armstrong created a charter that, in her words, "would counter the voices of extremism, intolerance, and hatred." At a time when extremism, distrust, and xenophobia seem to be an all too common response to the challenges we face in an uncertain world, her message is a reminder of one of the central tenants of Judaism, that we are all "*B'tzelem Elohim*," created in God's image, and that all of us contain a spark of the divine. Armed with this more nuanced view of compassion, I hope we can all practice compassion in its different forms: caring for those in need *and* creating understanding and respect between people, especially in the most challenging of circumstances.

Maintaining Jewish Connections in College

by Jon Cohan

College. That much-anticipated time of change and challenges, of embracing the new and exploring the familiar through different lenses. What have our TBS college students and recent graduates found out? We asked Melanie Maimon and Mikah Atkind and here is some of what they had to say.

They like having a Jewish connection at school.

“When I was looking at colleges, I didn’t think much about wanting a strong Jewish community at school, though I knew I wanted to be in an area where I wouldn’t be one of the only Jewish students,” said Melanie. “I definitely got very lucky [at UMass Amherst]. The majority of my close friends at school are in fact Jewish and having that connection with those friends has strengthened our friendships in many ways.”

For Mikah at Brandeis the experience was different. “I tried out Jewish organizations on campus my freshman year, but really didn’t feel that I connected to them.” Mikah says. “I felt that it was hard as a Reform Jew in a Jewish community that is made up of many students who are more religious, and I just found it hard to connect or to feel comfortable.”

Jewish people can be very different when you leave the world of TBS!

“I have connected with many other Jewish students from many different backgrounds (kind of unavoidable at Brandeis), and have had mixed experiences,” Mikah says. “Some have been very positive—I’ve certainly learned a lot about other views, and have had some people who have also been interested in learning from me.”

Melanie adds that “My friend Jon’s father is an Orthodox rabbi, so we have regular conversations about how our Jewish lives were so distinctly different, and yet still very similar in other ways. Connecting with people with different Jewish backgrounds than my own has brought to my attention just how different other Jewish communities

are from my own. We all feel comfortable sharing our experiences with each other and discussing how our religious views both differ and overlap. It has been a really eye-opening experience to share all of these differences and still feel such a strong connection given our views on our own individual constructions of our Jewish identities.”

Their TBS education prepared them well for Jewish life in college.

After *Sha’arim* class senior year, Melanie “felt fully prepared” to go to college while still embracing her Jewish identity: “Beginning the thought process of how I would still feel connected to my faith while at school hadn’t entirely occurred to me prior to *Sha’arim* senior year, and I felt that having those group discussions and getting the thought process started made me feel more prepared than anything else could have.”



“I think that my own sense of Jewish identity was strengthened through my experiences at TBS and the other communities that TBS connected me with,” Mikah suggests. “However, I wish I had learned more about other people’s views and how I might be thought of by others as a Reform Jew.”

Experiencing the Jewish holidays can be hard.

Melanie was also surprised that most schools do not cancel classes for the High Holy Days, “I found this to be disorienting my first year at school. Being in a location with a fairly small Jewish community has proved to be difficult in terms of celebrating significant Jewish holidays, but now that I’ve had time to adjust to being at university, it doesn’t feel as off-putting to have to find ways to celebrate on my own and with friends.”

Opportunities for more Jewish journeys abound.

From pursuing a career in Jewish education to planning Birthright trips to Israel, our TBS students look forward to their next Jewish steps in life. “I have not yet been to Israel, but I hope to go on birthright next year,” Melanie says with enthusiasm. “I don’t actually encounter too many people speaking about Israel at school, but I feel that when I look more into the birthright program, that will change drastically.”



Perspectives: A Jewish Approach to Applying to College

by Joni Burstein

Do you have a child in the midst of applying to college? Let Judaism provide a few guiding principles!

Put yourself in their shoes.

Imagine you are an admissions officer reading an application from someone. Would you want to have this person around on campus? Will you remember this candidate when you’ve read 100 applications in a day? If you can answer yes to both questions and that application was yours, chances are you’ve written an essay that conveys you in a positive and memorable way. Awesome!

Tikkun their school.

Tikkun olam means repair the world. The colleges to which you’re applying most likely do not need repair. But they can always improve.

Tell the admissions readers what you can do to make their school even better. Sound impossible? It’s not! Maybe you’ll join the jazz band and make it even better due to your enthusiasm for improvisation. Perhaps you’ll use your engineering skills to help the robotics lab come up with a new model. Maybe you’ll design a layout for the yearbook that makes it even easier to enjoy. They want to know that you are thinking about ways to contribute to the school.

“A good name is better than precious ointment...” Ecclesiastes 7:1

There are as many lists ranking colleges as there are good college choices. What’s more important than the name of the school you attend? The name you create for yourself.

Ultimately it is your name, not your college’s name, that people will remember as you go through life. No matter the name of your college, if you create a good name for yourself, you will go far.

Good luck on your application. We hope to hear you make a joyful noise when those acceptances come rolling in!

The TBS Cancer Survivorship Community

by Adam May

My name is Adam May. I was diagnosed with prostate cancer at the age of 45 (I am now 53) Let me give you some background. There is NO cancer in my family. I had absolutely no symptoms.

In May 2007, the blood work from my annual physical exam raised a red flag. My PSA had jumped from 1.0 to 3.5 over a two-year period. PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) is a test that screens the levels of protein in your prostate gland to see if there is danger of cancer. The rise in my PSA led me to see a urologist, who had my prostate gland biopsied. It was this test that showed I had a very aggressive cancer (Gleason 9) growing inside me. The Gleason score is assigned by the lab based on the growth of the cancer. My Gleason score of 9 basically indicated that I had the most extreme form of growing cancer, and the prognosis is NOT good.

This PSA test has been approved by the FDA for men over the age of 50 unless there IS cancer in the family (in which case, doctors typically start testing earlier). For some strange reason, my internist runs the test for every man over the age of 40. He probably saved my life. Why???? Because I was tested early and often. Most people who get a Gleason score of 9 or 10 in their 40s do not have a good chance of surviving more than five years. The reason is that the cancer is growing so fast that it is likely to spread to other parts of the body. Because I was tested, it looks like

my cancer was caught early enough so that my prognosis is better than most men with a Gleason 9 in their 40s.

The irony of this is that my wife made my doctor's appointment for me this year. You know how you get wrapped up with work, family and life. I never seemed able to make the time. I just kept coming up with excuses. Thank God she made this appointment. Don't be like me!

With all that 8 years later.....We are pleased to announce the formation of the Temple Beth Shalom Cancer Survivorship Community, a group of TBS cancer survivors dedicated to supporting others, but more importantly, celebrating life! We are an adhoc arm of the TBS Chesed Committee. We are looking for other cancer survivors to be part of this important group and help us grow and thrive within the temple community.

A cancer diagnosis undoubtedly is life altering. We understand how challenging it is for everyone involved and how important it is to get support from our friends, family and community. We are here to offer support, but we hope to be more than just a support group. We plan on offering social outings and other meaningful outreach programs to bring our community closer together. This is a forum to be with others who "get it" and know many of the issues you are facing, because we have faced them too.

If you have an interest in joining, or have any questions, please email Adam May at amay@macwholesale.net.



The Needham Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

TBS members are invited to join the entire Needham community at the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The service, hosted by the Needham Clergy Association, will be held at the Needham Town Hall on November 22nd and will feature a mix of music, prayer, and community. An offering to the community in the form of a charitable commitment to the town of Needham will also be gathered from those in attendance.

The Needham Clergy Association is an active and vital part of the Needham community. In addition to the work they do as an association of houses of worship, the NCA has also been a partner in the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention, the Needham Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, and the Own Your Peace movement. They have been an ongoing supporter of homeless awareness, they have helped to coordinate Needham's Habitat for Humanity efforts, and they have been an active participant in the creation of Needham's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorations and the Needham Diversity Summits.

Rabbi Jay sees the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service as a way for our Needham community to "elevate gratitude to a sacred value that is shared by all faith communities." "Being grateful in life," he continues, "not only enables us to

express thanks, but also – by opening ourselves to our own life blessings – enables us to grow in graciousness towards others, helping them to share in blessings as well." Rabbi Jay, Rabbi Todd, and Rabbi Lenke have found involvement in the Needham Clergy Association instrumental in creating bridges that link the many houses of worship in Needham. These close relationships have enabled them to learn from each other and support each other, and have allowed them to work closely with one another during times when our Needham community has experienced tragedy.

During this year of TBS construction, this partnership has also enabled our Temple to secure places to conduct our meetings and programs. This sharing of resources is mutual with our

faith neighbors as, over the years, we have provided space for other houses of worship as well. In a word, as Rabbi Jay has said, "Our close interfaith relationships are a blessing."

The Needham Clergy Association is looking forward to welcoming everyone at the Needham Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Town Hall on November 22nd at 4:00 pm. No RSVP is necessary. If you would like to participate by being part of the town-wide interfaith choir, please contact Rabbi Jay directly (jperlman@tbsneedham.org).



**Sunday, November 22, 2015, 4:00 PM,
at Needham Town Hall. Refreshments will follow.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shabbat Hikes!

What is a Shabbat Hike? It's simple - on one Shabbat afternoon a month, we meet, we hike! It's a great way to get to know other congregation members while spending time outside exploring the trails around Needham. Most hikes are not overly strenuous - the terrain will be described in the hike announcements in the Scroll and in TBS Week emails. Join us! Registration is not required.

Shabbat Hike Schedule for 2015-2016

11/7/15	2:00 PM	Ridge Hill Swamp Trail
12/12/15	2:00 PM	Elm Bank
2/27/16	1:00 PM	Olin/Babson Campus
3/12/16	2:00 PM	Cutler Park
4/9/16	2:00 PM	Lake Waban
5/14/16	2:00 PM	Wilson Mountain

Ushers Needed: Shabbat Services at the Rashi School

The Rashi community will graciously host all our *Shabbat* evening and morning services during our construction, from October 23rd continuing through the summer of 2016. (Information on the locations of a handful of special *Shabbatot* will be forthcoming.) We look forward to a wonderful year together!

For these Diaspora services we will need additional sanctuary ushers, as well as two assignments that are new for our *Shabbat* service at Rashi. Rashi has a sound and light control booth in their auditorium, as well as a security desk in the main lobby that we will need to staff with TBS volunteers for all *shabbat* services at Rashi. Please signup for the dates and times that work best for you at: <http://tiny.cc/TBSDiaspora>

For additional information contact: Sandy Hain, Director of Facilities and Event Administration (781-444-0077, tbshalom@tbsneedham.org)

Friday Afternoon Shabbat Services at Wingate

Join us for TBS's new weekly Friday afternoon *Shabbat* service at the Independent Living building of Wingate Residences. We bring TBS clergy and members together with Wingate residents and their families for candles, grape juice, *challah*, and *Shabbat* prayers and songs. Come any week!

Every Friday afternoon at 2:00 PM at Wingate Residences - Independent Living Building - 235 Gould Street, Needham

Questions? Contact: Rabbi Jordi Battis (781-444-0077, jbattis@tbsneedham.org) or Peggy Gassman (781-444-1806, gassman6@gmail.com)

Three Score and More



"Three Score and More" hopes all of our Temple members 60 years and older will join us at our upcoming events to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and make time to socialize, learn, and just plain have fun. Last

year, we had four wonderful events: a musical morning show with Cantor Marilyn Becker, a joint program with Temple Aliyah's senior group at the JCC Comedy Nite, a talk with author Nitza Rosovsky, and a Boston Pops performance with Michael Cavanaugh.

If you are interested in helping out with an event, serving on our Planning Committee, or have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact Co-Chairs, Roberta Gerson (robertaallengerson@gmail.com, 617-448-0523) or Ina Melen (imelen13@comcast.net, 617-969-2626).

Volunteers Needed: Bikur Cholim

Want to do a *mitzvah*? Like to cook or order take-out? Have a favorite chicken soup recipe that is truly Jewish penicillin? Providing a meal to let individuals or families going through a difficult time in their lives know that

ANNOUNCEMENTS

our Temple community is thinking of them is easy and rewarding.

If you enjoy cooking or ordering take-out, please join our *Bikur Cholim* group and share your talents with our congregation. You select which day is convenient for you. Expenses can be reimbursed and food containers provided to you. All you need is your time, your skills and your love!

Questions? Contact: Lori Hall (LHALL172@gmail.com) or Suzanne Stein (Suzanne.Stein@comcast.net).

TBS Annual Food Drive Again Benefits Needham Community Council Food Pantry



Mitzvah accomplished! Thanks to you! Yes, the 2015 TBS Annual Food Drive set an all-time record of collecting 545 bags of donated items. The Needham Community Council's director, Sandy Robinson, has thanked our Temple community once again for

our generosity, determination, and goodwill. If you did not donate, or would like to add to your donation, please drop off items at NCC. For guidance, the NCC Food Pantry Wish List can be found at: <http://needhamcommunity-council.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/FP-Wish-List-September-2015.pdf>. Donations are accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM; Wednesday, 8:30 AM until 7:00 PM; Saturday, 10 AM - 2 PM, or send a check to The Needham Community Council, 570 Hillside Ave, Needham, MA 02494. Our Annual Partnership with the NCC is a blessed and celebratory community effort. Much appreciated and anticipated, our donations help families who may be struggling right here in Needham - our neighbors, our friends.

The Social Action Committee warmly thanks each individual and every family for helping to make our efforts so successful.

Construction Update

Major demolition has begun! Within a few days the entire old education wing was torn down and the site is being prepared for the new foundations.

You will also notice a new temporary entrance as internal work begins on the new community court!



EVENTS THIS MONTH

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

Shabbet Hike: Ridge Hill

What is a Shabbat Hike? It's simple - on one Shabbat afternoon a month, we meet, we hike! It's a great way to get to know other congregation members while spending time outside exploring the trails around Needham. Most hikes are not overly strenuous - the terrain will be described in the hike announcements in the Scroll and in TBS Week emails. Join us! Registration is not required.

The Conservation Commission is completing work on a restored trail that includes a 300-foot boardwalk through a wetlands area. Be among the first to try it out! The terrain is uneven but without much elevation. Meet at the large parking lot near the mansion.

Saturday, November 7, 2:00 PM at Ridge Hill - 463 Charles River Street, Ridge Hill, Needham
Questions? Contact: Jane Evans (JaneLEvans@verizon.net, 781-254-4508).

Three Score and More: "The Rat Pack" and Pizza Party



Three Score and More presents our first event, "The Rat Pack," a stage musical that retells the tale of the big three of the Rat Pack - Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and Dean Martin. A pizza party will follow.

We only have 42 theatre tickets so space is limited. If you only want to come to the show, you will still need to RSVP so we have a head count for the theater. Event is only open to Temple members 60 years and older.

Sunday, November 8, 2015, 3:00 PM at the Reagle Theatre in Waltham, dinner after.

Performance at the Reagle Music Theatre, 617 Lexington Street, Waltham

Pizza Party at Margie and Alan Glou's home, 14 Greendale Ave., Needham

Cost: Theater and Pizza Party: \$55.00 per person, Theater only: \$45.00 per person

Questions? Contact: Roberta Gerson (robertaellengerson@gmail.com, 617-448-0523) or Ina Melen (imelen13@comcast.net, 617-969-2626)

Temple Beth Shalom Garden Club Antique Show

The Garden Club Antique Show will be at Needham High School. This is the Garden Club's one and only fundraiser! Come and find some treasures, or just come for our great bake sale, cafe and raffle items.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Needham High School gymnasium

Questions? Contact: Fawn Hurwitz (fhurwitz@aol.com, 781 444-3219)

Families with Young Children: Tot Shabbat

Celebrate Shabbat with songs, prayers, and the much-loved baby challah! No registration needed.

Friday, November 13, 6:15 PM at The Rashi School

Questions? Contact: Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning (edietrick@tbsneedham.org)

EVENTS THIS MONTH

The Conversation *Shabbat*



Join us as we celebrate The Conversation *Shabbat*. How we die is part of our legacy to our loved ones and our communities. Although we know it's important to have The Conversation about our end of life wishes with family, few of us actually do. On November 13 at Rashi School, Rabbi Perlman will reflect on the reality of our mortality. He will share the values and teachings of Judaism which encourage us to give the gift of The Conversation.

The November Conversation Shabbat will serve as an introduction to the topic. A workshop that follows this introduction will occur on December 1, 2015 (see Save the Date).

Friday, November 13, 2015 7:15 PM at The Rashi School, 8000 Great Meadow Road, Needham

Questions? Contact: Wendy Shulman (wshulman1@gmail.com, 617-359-5389)

TBS Brotherhood Sports Breakfast: Bob Ryan from the Boston Globe



Please join us this year for our highly anticipated Leroy Davis Sports Breakfast! Over the years we have had dynamic speakers including Dan Shaughnessy last year, Kyle Draper in 2013, and Dan Duquette in 2011, right before he became the general manager of the Baltimore Orioles. This year, Bob Ryan, sports columnist from the Boston Globe, will be our guest speaker! Mr. Ryan has been writing for the Globe since 1968, covering all of Boston's sports teams.

This is sure to be an extraordinary event; this is a great opportunity to bring your son, bring your daughter, bring your spouse, bring a friend, or bring them all! How can you go wrong? We serve up a great breakfast of bagels and lox and all sorts of other breakfast goodies, including plentiful coffee, an entertaining speaker, and great companionship. Please add this event to your calendar! We look forward to seeing you and whomever you may bring!

Sunday, November 15, 2015, 9:00 - 11:00 AM at The Village Club, 83 Morton Street, Needham

Cost: \$10 for TBS Members, \$15 for non-members

Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leroy-davis-sports-breakfast-tickets-19021854880> or pay at the door.

Questions? Contact: Brotherhood@TBSNeedham.org

Temple Beth Shalom Garden Club Thanksgiving Workshop

Debra Kraft will guide us in making a centerpiece for our Thanksgiving (or any occasion) table. She will be using greens, flowers, fruits and vegetables to make a beautiful arrangement. This is a members only event and advance sign-up is required.

Monday, November 23, 2015, 7:00 PM at Christ Church Episcopal, 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham

Questions? Contact: Fawn Hurwitz (fhurwitz@aol.com, 781-444-3219)

SAVE THE DATE

Planning an event? Submit it to the Scroll: <http://bit.ly/tbs-scroll>

Families with Young Children: Tot Shabbat

Celebrate Shabbat with songs, prayers, and the much-loved baby challah! No registration needed.

Friday, December 11, 6:15 PM at The Rashi School

Questions? Contact: Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning (edietrick@tbsneedham.org)

Families with Young Children: Chanukah Pizza Party:



Join us for menorah making and a pizza lunch at

Sunday, December 6, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, at The Village Club, 83 Morton Street

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/TBSmenorah>

Questions? Contact: Ellen Dietrick, Director of Early Childhood Learning (edietrick@tbsneedham.org)

Sisterhood Hannukkah Party

Come share latkes and stories as we move into the Winter season. Watch your email for a link to sign up.

December 2, 2015, 7:30 PM at the home of Judy Chudnofsky, 42 Cranberry Lane, Needham

Questions? Contact: Jill Lerner (jillzlearner@gmail.com).

TBS Garden Club - Herbs: The Star Ingredient

Come and learn about "Herbs: The Star Ingredient," with Laurie Bogosian and Carol Bello.

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 7:00 PM at The Village Club, 83 Morton Street, Needham

Questions? Contact: Fawn Hurwitz (fhurwitz@aol.com, 781 444-3219)

Project EZRA - Christmas Day

On Wednesday, 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 the turkeys, assemble the dinners, bake "finger desserts", and deliver the dinners. Know of someone who needs a dinner on Christmas Day? Please let us know. Project Ezra is a mitzvah you'll never forget.

Wednesday, December 25, 2015, 8:00 AM: Meal preparation begins. **11:45 AM:** Delivery of meals begins.
at Masonic Lodge Hall, 1101 Highland Avenue

Questions? Contact: Lois Sockol (781-449-1226) or June Atkind (617-462-4350).

SAVE THE DATE

18th Annual Sisterhood Spirituality Retreat

Join us for a unique and exciting weekend on Cape Cod filled with friendship, creativity, worship, laughter and song! Led by our own Temple Staff and Sisterhood retreat planning committee, we will enjoy a relaxing and wonderful weekend together. Reconnect with old friends and make new friends in a warm and welcoming environment. Space is limited so register early - watch your email for the registration form.

Friday, January 22 – Sunday, January 24, 2016, Cape Cod

Questions? Contact: Amy Willis (willisamy@comcast.net) or Shelley Goldman (eljo4@comcast.net)

The Conversation Project

“One conversation can make all the difference.” The Conversation Project is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. It’s not easy to talk about how you want the end of your life to be, but it’s one of the most important conversations you can have with your loved ones. Join the Reverend Rosemary Lloyd from The Conversation Project and members of our community as we explore and discover together our hopes and dreams for our future. All adult family members are welcome. Go to <http://www.theconversationproject.org> for more information and to download your “Starter Kit.”

Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 7:00 PM at The Village Club, 85 Morton Street, Needham

Questions? Contact: Wendy Shulman (wshulman1@gmail.com) or Rabbi Bob Orkand (rorkand@gmail.com)

Annual TBS Brotherhood Goes to the Celtics Event



Again this year the Brotherhood has secured 40 Skybox tickets to a Celtics game. This year’s game is matchup against Celtics’ arch rivals the Los Angeles Lakers! This school vacation special will be sure to sell out early!

Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at 7:30 PM at TD Bank Garden, Boston, MA

For more information or to reserve your tickets, contact: Ken Davis (pkedavis@aol.com)

LEARNING

Tzion: Zionism and the State of Israel



Tzion is a thorough and fascinating course that gives participants a sound knowledge of Zionism and the State of Israel. Taught by Rachel Fish of Brandeis University, this year's course explores the politics, society, and culture of the modern State of Israel (since 1948). Though the first half of the curriculum - early Zionism - was covered last year, new students are welcome! *Tzion* connects adults to Israel and its people through a discussion-based, interactive classroom. An optional study tour of Israel is available during May 2016.

Mondays, from 7:15 to 9:15 PM, for 20 weeks. Board Room. Wingate Residences, 235 Gould Street
First class Monday, October 26, 2015; last class Monday, April 11, 2016 (It's not too late to join!)
Tuition: \$400.00. Scholarship is available - Please contact Rabbi Perlman (jperlman@tbsneedham.org).
Register: Deb Hecht, Adult Learning Administrator (781-444-0077, dhecht@tbsneedham.org).

“Lunch ‘n’ Learn” with Rabbi Bob Orkand

Religious Literacy: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know

Unfortunately, the majority of Americans fail basic tests about religion. A basic understanding of religion is crucial for today's educated citizen. For many of us, religion is a powerful cultural identifier and impacts our everyday expression of ourselves. Religious literacy—the knowledge of basic teachings, symbols, practices, founders, institutions, and values of the world's religious traditions—can shed new light on the world around us and knock down the boundaries between us, making us better neighbors and better citizens. Please bring your own lunch and enjoy!



Mondays: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; December 7, 14 from 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
at Wingate Residences - The Board Room - 235 Gould Street, Needham
Questions? Contact: Deb Hecht, Adult Learning Administrator (781-444-0077, dhecht@tbsneedham.org)

“Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah” with Rabbi Bob Orkand

Each week we will focus on a single Jewish moral or ethical value found in that week's *parashah* (Torah portion). These will include but not be limited to Justice, Compassion, Environmental Ethics, 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.

Every Shabbat through December beginning October 3rd from 9:00 - 10:00AM
at The Rashi School, 8000 Great Meadow Road, Dedham
Questions? Contact: Deb Hecht, TBS Adult Learning Administrator (781-444-0077, dhecht@tbsneedham.org)

LEARNING

Kolot Kehillah

Join Cantor Jonas right before Friday evening Shabbat services, and learn a new piece of music in the style of an “instant” choir to be sung during services. No musical knowledge, vocal training, or Hebrew proficiency is necessary. This is for all ages but an adult must accompany children under the age of 13. No registration required, just arrive ready to sing. Kolot Kehillah is always from 5:45 - 6:05 PM, except on December 11th.

Fridays, 5:45 - 6:05 PM, November 27, December 11 (6:45 - 7:05 PM), January 22, February 26, March 18, April 29, May 20, June 17 at The Rashi School, 8000 Great Meadow Road, Needham

Questions? Contact: Cantor Jonas (Mjonas@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

“What’s Nu?”: Come, Share, and Learn with Rabbi Lenke

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

“What’s Nu?” is an opportunity to explore current events and issues that impact our lives and touch upon our values. We will meet on the first Wednesday of every month, from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

**Wednesdays, Next session November 4th from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
at Wingate Residences - The Board Room - 235 Gould Street, Needham**

Questions? Contact: Deb Hecht, Learning Administrator (dhecht@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-0077)

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Join us for our very popular weekly discussion of the week’s *Torah* portion. Each week, between 40 and 70 members of our community gather to share, question, laugh, eat and encounter the stories of the *Torah* in ways that help shape how we see the world, each other, and our lives. No experience is necessary and all are welcome!

Every Saturday 9:00-10:00 AM, See Shabbat Shalom email for location.

Teachers: Rabbi Jay Perlman and Rabbi Todd Markley

New Mamas, New Babies (newborn - 3 months)

This class will provide a place and time to discuss all your questions and concerns, and an honest environment to discuss all the amazing and not so amazing transitions into motherhood. Learn about the important developments your baby will experience in early infancy. Create a lasting support group of friends with babies the same age as yours. Gain the confidence that you can do it!

7 week session on Mondays, November 9 - December 21, 2015, 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM at First Parish Needham Unitarian Universalist, 23 Dedham Avenue, Needham

Cost: \$200.00 - use coupon code BABY for 12% off.

To Register: <http://tbsfamily.org/>

Questions? Contact: bbb@tbsneedham.org

America's Journey for Justice

by Rabbi Jordi Battis

On the morning of the second day of Rosh Hashanah this year, the final leg of the NAACP's America's Journey for Justice began. The group gathered at the foot of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and walked together into Washington, DC, to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for a rally for justice. The next day, they headed to Capitol Hill for a Day of Advocacy on the themes of the march, visiting the halls of Legislature to give the core message that black votes, jobs, schools, and lives matter.

The Journey for Justice march had begun August 1st in Selma, AL, to honor the march, 50 years ago, from Selma to Montgomery, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. It has long been a point of pride in the Reform Jewish community that rabbis made up a strong contingent in *that* march, with the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, carrying a Torah through the streets of Alabama, together with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Heschel said of his time there, journeying for justice: "I was praying with my feet."

Much has changed since that time. But we know from the news that we hear every day: racial inequality is rampant, even though it has been legislated against.

Michael Brown. Sandra Bland. Walter Scott. Freddie Gray.

Only a few names may be on the tips of our tongues, but whatever societal forces and individual culpability caused their deaths, they are only the tip of an iceberg.



Leviticus 19:16 tells us: "Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed." We know we cannot stand by while our own and others' blood is shed.

As many of you know, I had the chance to walk for a day of the Journey, as one of over 200 Reform rabbis who took part. I joined the group on August 28, marching along Route 1 in South Carolina. We passed the Torah from hand to hand, telling stories and singing as we went. Others from our TBS community had the chance to take part in

the Journey as well. On the final day of the march, Louis and Patti Grossman joined the group, just as Louis did as a child when he participated in the march on Montgomery with his grandfather, Kivie Kaplan. Now, 50 years later, on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah, he and Patti joined the group at Washington Hebrew Congregation for an interfaith service led by clergy and freedom leaders from across the religious spectrum.

On the march, I met a man named Middle Passage, who officially changed his name many years ago so that he would always be reminded of the route across the ocean that brought his ancestors to slavery. Middle Passage (pictured with me, here) marched every day of the Journey; he led the way across the bridge in Selma and carried an American flag over the entire 900 miles.



I am in grief as I report to you that on the final Saturday of the march, just outside of Washington, DC, Middle Passage suffered a sudden and fatal heart attack. His friends on the march say that he was like Moses, who led his followers across the Wilderness and died on the brink of the Promised Land. May his memory be for a blessing.

As Jews, whenever we come together to pray, we sing Mi Chamocho, whose words the Torah gives as those of the Israelites after they walked out of slavery in Egypt on dry land through the middle of the sea. We sing it to remember that we were strangers in the land of Egypt, so we fight for all who are regarded as strangers in our midst.

I hope you will find me to tell me *your* stories of fights for racial justice, find Louis and Patti and others in this congregation for whom these have been core issues of activism, and I, of course, am happy to share more stories from the march of my own.

May we together share in the prayers of feet marching, and may we lend our voices to the song.

Trip to the Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom, Cuba

by Deena Siegel

My husband, Gary, and I traveled to Cuba just prior to the Jewish holidays in September. It was Gary's 7th time as he has been involved with the Friendship Games, a remarkable exchange program between the Cuban Veteranos and the Eastern Massachusetts Senior Softball League. Each year since 2009 his team has played with the Veteranos in Cuba and, for the fourth time since 2012, the Veteranos have come to Boston (They threw out the first ball for the Red Sox one year!), stayed in our homes and participated in the Cape Cod Senior Softball Classic.

For the first time, I had an opportunity to accompany him, sans softball, and he was excited for me to see Cuba and what he has grown to love about the country and her people. We visited Hemingway's house, attended a reception at the U.S. Ambassador's home (marking the first time since the 1959 Revolution that we have had an embassy in Cuba!), walked the streets of Havana, and even purchased rum and cigars which have been banned in the country until now. There seems to be no crime in Cuba (no one besides the military own guns), no drug problem, and excellent educational and medical facilities. Nonetheless, the country is extremely poor, infrastructure is in devastating condition (for example, there are train tracks throughout the country, but no operable trains, and few homes have running water), and unemployment is high. Residents receive ration books for some necessities such as rice (10 pounds/month) and milk if there is a child



in the family under 7 years old. But the ration books tend to run out long before the month is over and people are hungry.

The most moving aspect of our trip was our visit to the Gran Sinagoga Bet Shalom, a Conservative temple. There are two other synagogues in Havana, one Orthodox and another Conservative. Jews first immigrated to Cuba in the 15th century following the Spanish Inquisition. In the early 20th century, there was significant Jewish immigration



following the Spanish-American War and the breakup of the Ottoman Empire. In the 1930s more Jews fled Europe to Cuba as a result of Nazi persecution. In 1959, nearly 95% of Cuban Jews emigrated to the U.S. after the arrival of Fidel Castro. Today, approximately 1500 Jews remain in Cuba, about 1300 of whom live in Havana.

We brought donations to the Jewish community of prenatal vitamins, children's Tylenol, pens and pencils (all items we take for granted). We asked what else they need. Our guide showed us the leaky roof and simply said, "money." We are so fortunate not to have water dripping on us as we worship in our beautiful Sanctuary and to have the resources that we do, especially as we move forward toward our own new *Mikdash*. If anyone would like to donate to repair their roof (or if you just want to find out more about the Friendship Games!) please contact Gary at: siegel.g@comcast.net. He is returning to Havana December 1st so time is of the essence.



KID'S PAGE

Create a Beautiful Challah Cover!

You'll Need:

- Heavy cotton fabric or light canvas cut to approximately 16×20 inches
- White glue
- Craft paint in a range of colors
- Open garbage bag or heavy stock paper to lay under your fabric for gluing and painting
- Pencil
- Small bowls or empty yogurt containers

1. **Begin to sketch** out your design with pencil directly onto the fabric. You may want to add "Shabbat" in Hebrew or your own pattern. **For younger children, complete this step and the next on your own and hand over the project to them at Step 3. Older children might be able to draw the pattern but require some help in in Step 2.*

2. **Trace all your pencil lines** with a heavy line of glue. As the glue dries it will become thinner, so make sure your glue line is solid enough to clearly mark any design you will want in your final product. Allow glue to dry overnight or set aside until completely dry, then continue to next step.

3. **Pour quarter-sized dollops of paint** into empty yogurt containers or other small bowls, and water down and mix until the paint is entirely dissolved. Your paint will dry a few shades lighter so plan to mix colors a few shades darker. (You're basically making your own watercolors.) 4. Be sure your garbage bag or craft paper is under your fabric, and **begin to paint**. Paint directly on your fabric allowing the colors to spread over the glue pattern you



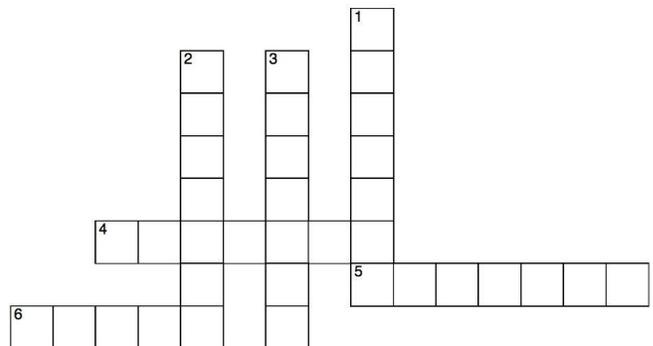
prepared the day before. The paint will behave like watercolors so expect your colors to blend into the fabric and spread. Remember to protect clothing and furniture as this will stain.

5. When satisfied with the painting, **set aside to dry** completely. When your entire cover is dry to the touch, you can put it into a mixing bowl of warm water to dissolve the glue. Help your children to peel off the glue either with their nails or a small nail brush. Return to warm water if needed and continue the peeling until all glue is removed.

6. **Allow your Challah cover to dry.** If you'd like, you can sew a backing on the cover or trim in ribbon for a finished edge.



Shabbat Crossword



ACROSS

- 4 We light them on Friday night
- 5 The blessing over challah
- 6 At Temple, we read from this scroll every Shabbat morning

DOWN

- 1 The blessing over wine
- 2 Shabbat is the _____ day.
- 3 The braided Shabbat bread

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The heartwarming wedding ceremony of my grandchildren, Mr. & Mrs. Craig Kublin

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