

Scroll

Temple Beth Shalom - Needham, Massachusetts

May 2021

Sh'vat / Adar 5781



Navigating Pandemic Times with Little Ones

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On the Cover

“TBS Theater - Real and Virtual”

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To contribute content, go here: <https://tbsneedham.org/submit>

From the Editorial Board

That voice during services that rises beautifully above all others... the impassioned delivery of a mere “Shabbat Shalom”... the smooth-running technology that magically makes services seem effortless. Theater, like services, requires the synergy of those on stage and those dressed in black, furtively out of the spotlight, making sure everything is just so. This issue features the talented behind-the-scenes doers, singers, and actors among us. Anyone who has seen – or participated in – a TBS musical can’t wait for the pandemic to cease and the curtain to rise once again. We applaud all our TBS thespians!

Joni Burstein on behalf of the Scroll Editorial Board

We Are Here For You

This is a trying time for all of us, and your Temple community is here to be of help. In addition to the challenges of the coronavirus threat, life events continue.

Have a difficult situation going on in your family? Have you experienced a recent loss of a loved-one? Has your family celebrated an engagement, wedding, birth, or other joyous event? Anticipating upcoming surgery or a hospital stay?

Don't forget to let your TBS family know!

When significant life events are taking place – good or bad – the clergy at TBS want to know, as do our educators when the situation is impacting a child in our learning programs. Please e-mail or call our clergy or educators at: 781.444.0077 to share what is happening so that we can be supportive.

We are here for you. We want to know so we can help!

Welcome New Members

- Seth Benson and Erica Salamon and Charlotte (6) and Ethan (4)
- Elizabeth Chernack and David Greenstein and Ella (9) and Evan (6)
- Gillian and Joshua Cohen and Reid (1)
- Jeffrey and Erica Cohen and Gabrielle (7) and Levi (4)
- Jenni and Seth Goodman and Elliot (1)
- Joshua and Laurie Grossberg and Maya (1)
- Brigitte and Zachary Kofos
- Jason Kravetz and Zachary (10) and Quinn (8)
- Vera and Justin McCullen and Faye (9) and April (7)
- Lisa and David Mesicek and Alexa (9) and Samara (9)
- Diana and Paul Rittenberg and Brandon (4) and Brooke (1)
- Jason and Leslie Starr and Grace (5) and James (2)
- Daniel and Heather Sullivan and Jasper (2) and Logan (not yet 1)

Online Shabbat Services in May

SATURDAY, MAY 1 (19 IYAR 5781)

Torah: Emor, Lev. 21:1 – 24:23
 8:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Minyan
 9:00 AM – Lay-led Torah Study
 9:15 AM – Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
 10:30 AM – Torah Study is Great, but What Happens
 in the REST of the Hebrew Bible?
 B. Mitzvah: Benjamin Most

FRIDAY, MAY 7 (26 IYAR 5781)

6:15 PM – Erev Shabbat Service
 6:15 PM – Tot Shabbat

SATURDAY, MAY 8 (26 IYAR 5781)

Torah: B'har B'Chukotai, Lev. 25:1 – 27:34
 8:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Minyan
 9:00 AM – Torah Study
 9:15 AM – Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
 B. Mitzvah: Brett Ellerin
 B. Mitzvah: Talia Muzikant

FRIDAY, MAY 14 (4 SIVAN 5781)

6:15PM – Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 15 (4 SIVAN 5781)

Torah: B'Midbar, Numbers. 1:1 – 4:20
 8:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Minyan
 9:00 AM – Torah Study
 9:15 AM – Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
 B. Mitzvah: Ashley Forrester

B. Mitzvah: James Alperstein

MONDAY, MAY 17 (6 SIVAN 5781)

7:00 AM – Shavuot Festival Service with Yizkor

FRIDAY, MAY 21 (11 SIVAN 5781)

6:15PM – Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 22 (11 SIVAN 5781)

Torah: Naso, Numbers. 4:21 – 7:89
 8:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Minyan
 9:00 AM – Torah Study
 9:15 AM – Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah

FRIDAY, MAY 28 (18 SIVAN 5781)

6:15PM – Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, MAY 29 (18 SIVAN 5781)

Torah: B'Ha'a'lotcha, Numbers. 8:1 – 12:16
 8:30 AM – Shabbat Morning Minyan
 9:00 AM – Torah Study
 B. Mitzvah: Julian Heffernan
 B. Mitzvah: Lincoln Maxwell

SUNDAY, MAY 30 (19 SIVAN 5781)

Torah: Vayikra, Lev. 2:1-10
 B. Mitzvah: Ella Patti

Note: Please join the TBS Community for Minyan Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM Zoom links are in the TBS weekly email.

Committee Meetings in May – Stay Involved!

TBS Committee Meetings will be virtual online meetings via Zoom until further notice, to implement health measures for COVID-19. Committees not listed will not meet formally.

Committee Name

Date and Time

Email Contact for Information

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

Wed. May 5, 7:30 PM
 Tues. May 11, 7:15 PM
 Wed. May 19, 7:15 PM
 Thurs. May 27, 7:30 PM
 Tues. May 4, 7:15 PM
 Thurs. May 6, 12:00 PM
 Mon. May 3, 7:30 PM
 Wed. May 12, 7:15 PM
 Tues. May 18 7:15 PM

adultlearning@tbsneedham.org
 brotherhood@tbsneedham.org
 communications@tbsneedham.org
 environaction@tbsneedham.org
 gardenclub@tbsneedham.org
 scroll@tbsneedham.org
 threescoremoreorless@tbsneedham.org
 tzedek@tbsneedham.org
 worship@tbsneedham.org

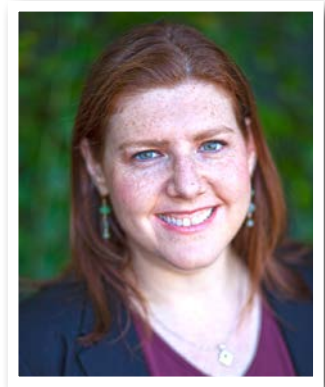
For further information, please check with the Committee chair at the email address provided.



From Our Clergy

Theater Shares Our Stories

By Rabbi Julie Bressler



My head is full of Broadway musical lyrics. From *Rent* to *Phantom of the Opera* to *Les Misérables* to *Hamilton* and more – I love singing along to these cast albums and seeing productions live whenever I can. While my hope of making trips to NYC from Needham to see shows will have to wait until after the pandemic, I am really excited to be much closer to the hub of it all by moving to this coast.

Jewish involvement in theater has religious roots. Purim plays have roots as early as the 12th century, and even the most traditional religious authorities allowed for merriment and play to mark that holiday. During the European Enlightenment, Jewish intellectuals began writing plays in Yiddish about religious and secular topics. While the religious authorities were less enthusiastic about this creativity, Yiddish theater soon became accepted and widespread across Europe. This theater moved to the United States by the late 19th century and became a welcome way for the Jewish community to express their hopes, triumphs, and challenges of being a growing immigrant community. As Jewish playwrights began writing in English, they contributed to the contemporary American theater community, and created a way to share the Jewish and immigrant story on the main stage.

Today, Jews are involved in theater at every level. From behind-the-scenes to the orchestra pit to the stage, Jews play a significant role in the development and growth of the theater world. *Fiddler on the Roof*, the most successful Jewish story told on stage, has been played continuously since its debut nearly 55 years ago. This story of an immigrant community experiencing joy, struggle, and change is so universal that it has been translated into dozens of languages and played across the world for decades. As an *LA Times* article celebrating its 50th anniversary concluded, “*Fiddler’s* strong themes of tradition, repression, prejudice and diaspora continue to evoke common ground for audiences — wherever they are. The well-crafted book and memorable songs don’t hurt, of course, but they are augmented by a plot that has something for everyone, whether it’s the importance of family, friction between generations or the difficult choices that accompany emigration and assimilation.”

Many of our community members are involved in theater as well, and you will learn about their stories in this issue. I look forward to the day when we can once again be with dozens, hundreds, or thousands of fellow theater-goers and have that collective experience of going on a journey with the characters we watch onstage. In our challenging and ever-changing world, letting ourselves be swept away into the story is a gift each and every time.



Green Tip

Make some meatless meals! Many of us enjoy meat, but raising livestock for meat takes a lot of land (about 30 percent of the world’s land), water (about 5,000 gallons to produce 1 pound of meat), and energy (more than four times that of grains and twice that of vegetables). Having a vegetarian dinner even once a week can make a difference. Join Needham Meatless Mondays by making one day each week a meatless day. That’s what Meatless Mondays are all about!



From Our Board of Trustees

Building Towards a Brighter Tomorrow

By Eugene Stein, Congregational President



The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. As we are more than a year into the Covid pandemic, the availability of vaccines has increased, and our ability to test and do surveillance testing in our own Temple building has not only kept Covid from spreading, but has been featured in the news and by our peers as a model to emulate. Our clergy and lay leaders have worked tirelessly to adapt, pivot and be agile in bringing the same level of community, programming and experiences one would have enjoyed had Covid not even entered our vocabulary. In short, we as a congregation have all worked hard to keep this community not only alive and going, but thriving and providing a beacon during the past 15 months.

Fresh from the sweetness of Pesach, we remember that as the Jewish people were freed from Egypt, they were still to face challenges. And as we begin to see an end to the Covid pandemic, we are not there yet. That means our clergy and lay leaders will continue to adapt and pivot and be agile in programming, worship and bringing meaningful experiences to all. Just as we learned to use Zoom and Vimeo, we will work with our partners in the town and the state, and our team of expert advisors, to expand and have in-person events begin again in a proper way.

It has been a long 15 months, but it won't be 40 months. The beacon that TBS provides is strong and bright. As a community we have and still come together, and soon (unfortunately, my special crystal ball has yet to arrive from Amazon) we will begin to get together in person again. We definitely need a new word along the lines of heroic for our clergy, professionals and lay leaders. What an amazing job they have done navigating us this far. And to think when it first started, everyone thought it was going to be a two- to four-week situation.

Soon we will be looking to have our Annual Meeting, where we will share much of what has been accomplished, and how we navigated this pandemic and kept true to our faith. We will also be hearing about the plans for next year, which will be a year of emergence, coming out of the pandemic, and finding our old - and new - pathways again. I very much look forward to doing that with each of you.

None of us did this alone; we all did this together. Together, we were much more than the sum of each of us. Our broader Jewish community here in Massachusetts, the United States and the world also helped, making our beacon brighter and stronger. Our partners of other faiths joined with us as well. Together, we are finding our way to what will be our post-Covid emergence.

There is a lot to be done - no doubt about it. But we have proven we are not only up to the challenge, we have learned what we are capable of when we need to do things socially distanced, with masks, and via Zoom or audio. Just imagine the synergy we bring when we can once again work and be together hand in hand and bring that focus to other issues.

May Highlights

Advance registration to receive the Zoom link is required for all events. All events are free, unless stated otherwise.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's 25th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Sunday, May 9, 9:00 AM

The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. It is the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) largest fundraising event to grow and sustain their services, advocacy, and training.

LDBPI and TBS Tzedek are honored to celebrate and remember the lives of our loved ones who have been murdered. This year, the walk will be held online and is all about celebration and remembrance of 25 years of walking for Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice, and Forgiveness!

Go to <https://bit.ly/2021TzedekLDBPIWalkRegistration> to register, and to donate if you choose to do so.

When you register, please be sure to choose "Tzedek Needham" in the drop-down menu which says "Credit this event registration to a fundraiser."

For further information about LDBPI and the Walk for Peace, go to: mothersdaywalk4peace.org



Sisterhood's Wine and Cheese, Women and Torah

Monday, May 10, 7:15 PM

Bring your own wine and cheese, then sip and schmooze with the women of TBS for an enlightening Torah study with Rabbi Julie Bressler. Using text from *Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press 2007), we will explore the topic "Biblical women you didn't learn about in Hebrew school." Please join us for an amazing evening of study and socializing.

To register and receive the Zoom link, please go to: t-b-s.me/TorahWomen



Social Action Opportunity at Community Servings for Ages 13+

► Medically Tailored Meals for the Chronically Ill

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, any day during the week of May 17 - 21.

TBS Social Action continues to partner with Community Servings to help provide medically tailored, nutritious, scratch-made meals to chronically and critically ill individuals and their families. Volunteers can expect to help with tasks like peeling and chopping vegetables, portioning and packaging food, and packing meal bags for delivery to Community Servings clients. This organization is amazing and makes for a fantastic volunteer experience! (Visit servings.org to learn more.)

Volunteers should arrive at the time of their shift at 179 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain (25 minutes from TBS). There is plenty of parking in the lot. Masks must be worn and gloves are provided. An orientation will be provided for volunteers, and training and support are provided throughout all shifts.

Volunteers must be 13 years of age or older. All volunteers under age 18 must complete the Youth Waiver, which can be found at: t-b-s.me/csyouthwaiver.

To register and sign up for any of these shifts, go to: t-b-s.me/CommunityServingsMay

Questions? Contact: socialaction@tbsneedham.org.



May Highlights continued...

Beth Shalom Garden Club

Tuesday, May 18, 7:15 PM

Mal Condon, "The Hydrangea Guy", will be presenting a program on "All Things Hydrangea," specifically, planting hydrangeas in containers. He has been growing and collecting hydrangeas for forty years. His Hydrangea Farm Nursery, formerly on Nantucket Island, is now located in Yarmouth Port, Cape Cod. He is presently the Curator of Hydrangeas at Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich. He will fascinate us with his knowledge about hydrangeas and container planting. You can see some of his work at malthehydrangeaguy.com.



To register and receive the Zoom link, please email: gardenclub@tbsneedham.org

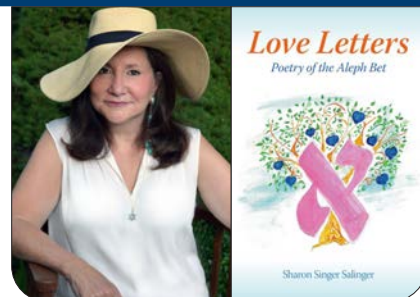
Love Letters: Poetry of the Aleph Bet

➤ A Virtual Presentation by Poet/Illustrator Sharon Singer Salinger

Sunday, May 23, 11:00 AM

TBS community and guests, please join TBS member Sharon Singer Salinger as she discusses her new book, *Love Letters: Poetry of the Aleph Bet*, a collection of poems and illustrations inspired by the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Sharon is a member of a distinguished literary family that includes her grandfather, IJ Singer; her uncle, Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer; and her parents, June and Joe Singer. She is a direct descendant of many important rabbinic lineages including Rashi, the Rabbanit Miriam, and the RaMa. Sharon's multimedia presentation will



include readings of her poems and a discussion of how she became a writer, the impact of growing up among writers and artists, stories about the famous Singer literary heritage, and insights into the Hebrew letters.

Borrow a donated, signed copy of *Love Letters* from the TBS library; purchase at

Amazon (tinyurl.com/yxjxtkum); or to order a signed copy from Sharon, please contact her at: library@tbsneedham.org

To register and receive the Zoom link, please go to: t-b-s.me/loveletters

Questions, or for more information, contact: library@tbsneedham.org



Join Us for Another Night of Entertaining Trivia

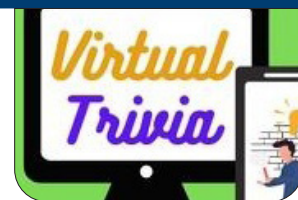
Sunday, May 23, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Three Score/More or Less will once again host a fun evening of virtual trivia. Back by popular demand, this free event will include all new questions from categories familiar to the Three Score demographic (TBS members 55+). Participants will be assigned to random teams grouped in breakout rooms. No outside sources may be consulted (on the honor system!). Teams will have a designated time to answer multiple rounds of questions, and \$\$ prizes will be awarded to the winners. Let's get together to challenge our memories and celebrate each other!

Advance registration is required.

To register and receive the Zoom link, please go to: t-b-s.me/3ScoreTriviaNight

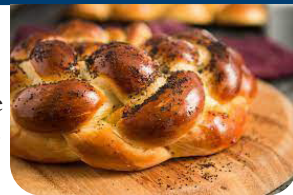
Questions? Contact Ed Schreider or Gary Goldman (threescoremoreorless@tbsneedham.org)



Challah Baking with Susan Brisk

Thursday, May 27, 7:30 PM

Susan Brisk is known for her delicious challah! Join Sisterhood to learn Susan's secrets of making challah. After you register for the Zoom link, you will receive an email with the recipe and all of the instructions. You can prepare ahead and join Susan during the Zoom to make your own challah, or you may choose to observe and create your own challah anytime.



To register and receive the Zoom link, please go to: t-b-s.me/challah

Questions, or for more information, contact: sisterhood@tbsneedham.org



Confirmation

Sunday, May 16, 6:00 pm

Everyone is invited to join us for our Confirmation Service celebrating the Temple Beth Shalom Confirmation Class of 5781. Join us on Vimeo at t-b-s.me/confirmation5781.



Shavuot

Monday, May 17-Tuesday, May 18

The festival of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Like Sukkot and Passover, Shavuot has its roots as an agricultural pilgrimage festival. Among modern traditions, it is customary to study Torah (all night, in some communities!) and eat dairy foods. Confirmation ceremonies are also traditionally held on or near Shavuot.

In celebration of Shavuot, TBS will offer a dairy meal and special dessert order, for pickup Friday, May 14. Please check the weekly emails and the Temple website for ordering information.

Around TBS

The TBS Green Electricity Initiative

The TBS Environmental Committee is introducing the use of green energy from solar farms around the State to our congregation. TBS uses similar green energy to complement our solar array and it saves the Temple money at the same time. All of TBS's electricity is generated by solar panels: 39% from panels that sit on our roof, and 61% from Massachusetts community solar farms.



The Environmental Committee is reaching out to the Congregation to help promote this initiative.

You can join TBS and other members of the Congregation by purchasing all your electricity from solar sources. TBS has arranged for you to purchase your electricity from Massachusetts community solar farms using the same Boston-based firms from which TBS makes its purchase – and save money too. You have two options:

Nexamp, Inc.

- 12.5% off the delivery fee.
- Learn more at: solar.nexamp.com/TempleBethShalom



Ampion

- 10% off the delivery fee and
- \$100 contribution from Ampion to TBS Social Action Fund
- Learn more at: signup.ampion.net/tbs-needham



- No subscriptions fees, opt-out at any time without penalty or fee, takes just minutes to sign-up.
- Overall, you should expect to save one month of electricity per year.
- Let's make TBS a completely solar electricity community.

Questions? Email Michael Bailit, Jane Evans, or Mat Tutelman (EnvironAction@tbsneedham.org)



Around TBS continued...

Race to the Top of Mount Sinai Challenge

Continuing through May 17 (Shavuot)

It's a race to the top of Mt. Sinai! On Shavuot, we read about Moses' journey to the top of Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. This year, let's work together to bring that journey to life!

Join with your TBS community as we run, walk, bike, row, push a stroller, Peloton, wheelchair, skateboard and swim from Temple Beth Shalom 5,614 miles to the top of Mt. Sinai. Log your miles and keep an eye on the map. Each trip there or back unlocks a special prize for our racers.

To sign up, and then to enter your miles each day as a "new activity," go to: t-b-s.me/SinaiRace



Recurring Events

Advance registration to receive the Zoom link is required for all classes. All classes are free, unless stated otherwise.

Pre-Shabbat Yoga

Fridays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Join Stephanie Javaheri every Friday morning for pre-Shabbat yoga. Her classes offer an energetic mindful flow focusing on alignment and breath to create a 'work in' rather than a 'work out.' Her aim is to help others find a sliver of stillness and to feel more grounded in body and mind. Stephanie sees yoga as being accessible to anyone with an open mind and the willingness to go within.

Please register at t-b-s.me/yoga to receive a Zoom link by email.



Finding Our Jewish Values in the Torah, Led by Rabbi Bob Orkand

Shabbat mornings, 9:15 - 10:15 AM

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

Please register at t-b-s.me/findingvalues to receive a Zoom link by email.



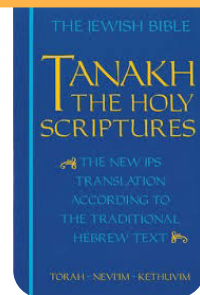
Torah Study is Great, but What Happens in the REST of the Hebrew Bible?

Taught by Rabbi Bob Orkand

First Shabbat of each month, continuing through June, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Have you ever wondered where the Biblical stories of our ancestors go after Moses' death at the end of the Book of Deuteronomy? Our Torah-study cycle allows us to spend a lot of time on the five books of Torah, but what about the rest of what appears in the Hebrew Bible? We will do our study online, and no prior knowledge is needed. All are welcome!

Please register at t-b-s.me/laterbooks to receive a Zoom link by email.



Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Bob Orkand: “A History of the Jews in America”

Mondays at noon, through June 7

Jews have lived in what is now the United States for 366 years. The contribution by American Jews to this nation has been extraordinary, in large part because of the freedom afforded to not only Jews but to other minority communities as well.

There has been a long-standing fear that Jews in America are doomed to assimilate, that they cannot survive in an environment of religious freedom and church-state separation. In the United States, where religion is totally voluntary, where religious diversity is the norm, where everyone is free to choose his or her own brand of Judaism - or no Judaism at all - many have assumed that sooner or later Judaism will disappear. And so, each generation has had to wrestle anew with the questions of whether its own children and grandchildren will remain Jewish, whether Judaism as a faith will end and carry on as ancestral memory alone.

Amazingly, then, Judaism in the United States has not only survived but thrived. This course will look at why this is the case. How have America’s Jews adapted to living in a land of freedom? And, what has America’s Jewish community contributed to this, its home?

No prior knowledge is needed. All are welcome!

Please register at t-b-s.me/JewsInAmerica to receive a Zoom link by email.



Questions? Contact: Jessica Baim (jbaim@tbsneedham.org)



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

Friday, May 14, 9:15 to 9:45 AM in the TBS Front Parking Lot.

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

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

To sign up for specific food donation items, go to: t-b-s.me/baglunch



If you can’t make it on May 14, just sign up for your food donation items and then email us at socialaction@tbsneedham.org to arrange for an earlier delivery date.

Questions? Contact : socialaction@tbsneedham.org



Navigating Pandemic Times with

Bumps, Babies & Beyond Moves Beyond the TBS Walls

A group of 10 toddlers and their families gather together in a field. Let's hunt for leaves! What did you find? Can you use a crayon to create an imprint of the leaf on paper? We are nature explorers!

When the pandemic happened, Bumps, Babies and Beyond (BBB) pivoted from 10 indoor offerings to 13 outdoor and online offerings. The Mama-To-Be classes doubled in frequency and participants.

We changed all toddler programming to outdoor, nature-based classes. Early parenting support groups for new parents were held outside at local parks and on zoom. We have added free stroller walks for the community to connect outside of our paid programming. We also offered a free Parenting in a Pandemic support group at the beginning of the lockdown.

We have always known how much the BBB community has meant to people but this year the BBB community has been the only connection to any type of community for many people. It has been the only socialization opportunity for many toddlers. We also created a newsletter this year to add to the BBB community experience.



Little Ones...

We have been honored to support and witness families who are clearly pioneers in parenting during a pandemic. We have had one group of women who have supported each other and continued on together in a support group since September (over 6 months).

Dawn Ellis and Liz Berkman, Parenting Specialists

TBS Steps Up to Support Families



It doesn't matter if it's quarantine, rain, snow, or sunshine, Liz and Dawn haven't missed a beat supporting the kids and families in the Bumps, Babies and Beyond classes. Since they were born, both of our kids have been enrolled in a variety of the BBB class offerings and they have come to enjoy and appreciate (and expect!) the predictable class structure and familiar songs, and look forward to creating, exploring and catching up with Liz, Dawn, and friends, both new and old.



Over the past year these classes have provided the consistency and safe sense of normalcy that we needed. And when our family was in quarantine, Liz graciously supplied us with the art boxes on our doorstep and a video recording of the book so that we could safely enjoy our weekly art class! As a parent, I was fortunate to participate in the Parenting in a Pandemic group run by Liz and Dawn in Spring 2020. I looked forward to connecting with those other moms each week, sharing our highs and lows, and supporting each other along the way. Although our kids are getting close to aging out of the classes, we joke that we are BBB "lifers." A huge thank you to Liz and Dawn for putting smiles on all of our faces each week, keeping us connected, and for reminding us that no matter the weather or pandemic status, you are never too old to appreciate bubbles!

Rachel Sarasohn, TBS Member and Bumps, Babies and Beyond Parent



In the Spotlight: Our Members

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at fellow members who are talented in theater, both

The Bailit Family

Life upon and behind the stage is a staple of Bailit family life. Michael and Julie acted in the Needham Public Schools as children, and David and Eli did the same when at Rashi. In addition to our involvement in all of the TBS musicals from *Joseph...* to *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Damn Yankees*, we are active volunteers and performers with Needham Community Theatre and with Weston Drama Workshop. Julie, Michael and Eli spend most of their time on stage, while David is a stage management aficionado. In addition, Julie, Michael and David serve on community theater boards. How do we like to spend our weekends? Seeing shows!



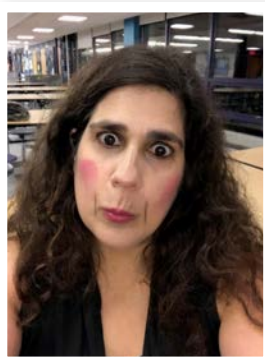
Ilan Barzilay

As a kid I listened incessantly to my parents' vinyl copy of the original Broadway soundtrack of *Evita*. As a result, I was bitten by the theater bug. (I also developed a bit of a Mandy Patinkin thing.) Over the years I've performed works by Shakespeare, Chekov, Sondheim, Cole Porter, Kander & Ebb, and David Williams and been involved in all aspects of theater from on-stage, to back-stage, to off-stage. As a student I participated in small extracurricular shows, large university productions, and even the Georgetown Gilbert & Sullivan Society (the only theater group with its own law school). Now, when time permits, I perform with local groups such as Needham Community Theatre and The Fringe Theatre. I love everything about the theater, including that my kids are into it! Hopefully you can see us in the oft-delayed *Peter Pan*, coming (eventually?) to a post-pandemic Needham basement / stage.



Jenny Berk

I have always loved theater but especially singing. I was in an a cappella group at Brandeis University and later sang back-up in bands in NYC throughout my 20s. My last foray into theater (and most rewarding experience) was last Fall when my daughter Mira and I both performed in the ensemble for the Needham Community Theatre's performance of *Mary Poppins*. It was wonderful to spend so much time with Mira and see her own talents flourish.



in Theater

off-stage and center-stage.

Ken Davis

To “Smee” or not to “Smee” was my first theatrical role in the 5th grade. Decades later, TBS held auditions for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and I was fortunate to be cast as Issachar, one of Joseph’s brothers. This was my first real theatrical role and the camaraderie and fellowship of the TBS cast made this a special experience. In fact, all of the “brothers” continue to have an ongoing and unique bond.

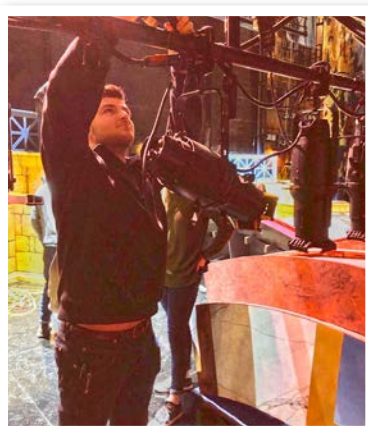
As a salesman in the TBS production of *The Music Man* I learned that the split second timing of the opening number, Rock Island, wasn’t as easy as it looks!

Finally, my last TBS production was as a ball player in *Damn Yankees*. I certainly will never forget the infamous locker room scene. That was a great experience and there is a special bond not only among the ball players, but with the entire TBS ensemble as well.

There is something special about the camaraderie and fellowship of our TBS theatrical community and I look forward to being a cast member in future TBS productions.



Jacob Grebber



My interest in theater began at age 4 watching the TBS production of *Joseph!* In 8th grade, transitioning from acting on stage to working behind stage, I developed a great interest in theatrical lighting design and technology. I didn’t know much about it but with a lot of help from my mentors and self-teaching, I had the amazing opportunity to work with design teams and technicians on Broadway, the Pops’ 4th of July Spectacular, the Boston Opera House, and local theater companies (as well as TBS’ *Damn Yankees*). I currently study Lighting Design and Technology at U.N.C. School of the Arts with a concentration in technology. Upon graduation, I plan to tour with a National Broadway Company!

Michael Herschberg

Theater has always been a love of mine since seeing *The Nutcracker* at four years old. I spent my childhood performing in plays, taking singing lessons, and learning to dance. After graduating Northwestern University with a theater degree, I performed

in Chicago theaters and spent two years touring the country as an actor. I was lucky enough to get the role of Motel in the 35th anniversary tour of *Fiddler on the Roof*. My desire for stability and a family led me to a second career, but theater is still a part of my life. I currently run a school touring production of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* with Moonbox Productions that will hopefully start visiting schools again as soon as it is safe. Bringing theater to kids is such a joy. I love hearing the kids (and the teachers) sing along to “Conjunction Junction” and “I’m Just a Bill” while knowing that experience might just inspire one more kid to love going to the theater.



In the Spotlight: continued...

Lauren Inker



When I was in school, I did a lot of shows. Then after a hiatus due to two kids and work, I got back into community theater, including *Oliver!* with Needham Community Theatre (NCT) (ensemble) and *House of Blue Leaves* with the Moonstruck Theater Company (Head Nun). I also joined the ensemble in TBS productions of *Fiddler On the Roof*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

My favorite role was playing Friar Francis and the Sexton in *Much Ado About Nothing* with NCT. Most recently, I was cast as Philostrate in the NCT production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but Covid-19 derailed the show. We hope to pick it up this spring. I love theater.



Madi Shaer



I began performing eight years ago after watching a PBS documentary about the Broadway revival of *Annie*. Having recently seen the show, I was fascinated by the documentary and knew I wanted theater to be a part of my life. I was fortunate to be cast in *Annie* later that year with Needham Community Theatre. Several years later, I performed the title role in *Annie* on Cape Cod. Some additional favorite roles have been Winnie Foster in the New England premiere of *Tuck Everlasting* and Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden*. Other than during the pandemic, I'm almost always rehearsing or performing in a show with many wonderful theaters

throughout Greater Boston. Yet, my favorite experience to date was in NYC when I was fortunate to be cast as Jane Banks in *Mary Poppins* with Paper Mill Playhouse. I moved to NYC with my Mom for two months, and had three weeks of rehearsals and five weeks of performances. I look forward to hopefully performing again soon when the pandemic is over. When it is, please support local theaters!

Seth Salinger

My big acting break came in the 3rd grade in Hilo, Hawaii (where my family had moved temporarily for my father's short-term Peace Corps assignment) because the boy chosen for the lead in the Christmas play simply could not learn his lines. Thus, Santa was Jewish that year, and the elves were all Hawaiian (as in real life). Subsequent school and community roles in *Oliver!*, *The King and I*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *1776*, *Our Town*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and a series of one-acts cemented my theater bug. Performing in TBS's *Fiddler* and *Damn Yankees* were joyful experiences, rekindling those youthful glories. A childhood spent partly in Southeast Asia honed a diaspora instinct to mask identity – excellent theatrical training for animating fictional characters and channeling their emotions. Camaraderie with performers and production crew – especially in Temple – is one of theater's greatest rewards (second only to a star billing and a standing ovation). I'm now attempting (unsolicited) to write a musical for TBS. Is it any good? Who knows? At least it's royalty-free!



Navigating Pandemic Times

...continued from page 13

TBS Around Town: A Preschool Alternative

Late last summer, it was clear that we had some families in our community who were not ready to have their children back to school, for a wide variety of reasons. We put our heads together to create a new type of program for these families, one that would create a community within a community, and would keep the children engaged and the families connected to TBS, the Children's Center, and to each other. TBS Around Town was born. We knew that some families were only comfortable meeting outside, and some were only comfortable meeting on Zoom (a skill we honed last spring after the initial shutdown), so we created an a la carte program that would accommodate as many families as possible.

In the past seven months, we have pivoted several times, adding classes specifically for older preschool students, and adding a class to celebrate Shabbat together. So far, we have served 18 families in our TBS community and the wider Needham community. Together we have celebrated Jewish holidays, read stories, played at the playground, and engaged in science, art, music, literacy, and math. Most importantly, together we have laughed, shared our lives, and made friends – adults and children alike.

Ali Yaker, TBS Around Town Founder and Teacher



TBS Around Town, we love you!

Ali Yaker, our teacher, we love you! We are beyond thankful to Temple Beth Shalom, the Rabbis, teachers, staff and families who have made this remote program feel as in-person as possible during quarantine. We have two children who had to stay home for medical reasons. Through Zoom, Ms. Ali has created a classroom at home. From receiving project kits for each Jewish holiday to Zoom Shabbat, TBS Around Town has created a virtual community, connection and love that has helped us get through quarantine together!

Aly Strasnick, TBS Member and TBS Around Town Parent

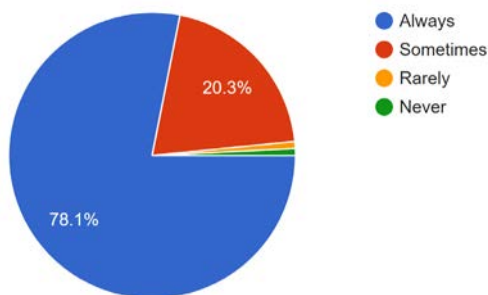


Learning from Our Readers

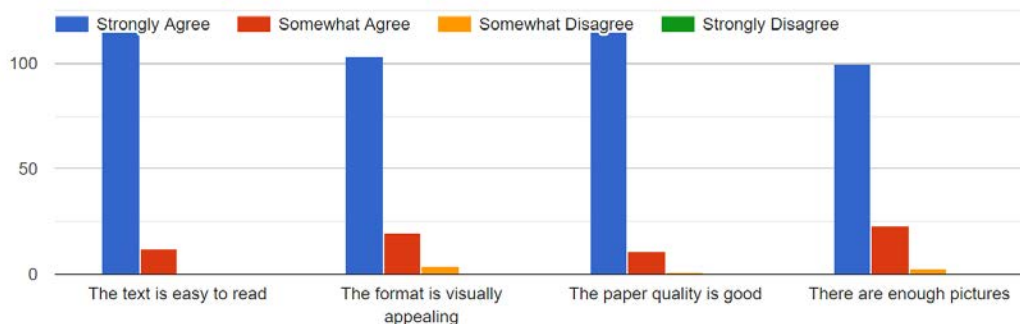
By Robyn Glazier

Earlier this year, the Scroll Editorial Board sent out requests for feedback.

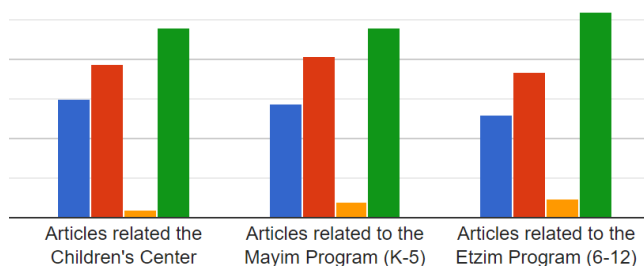
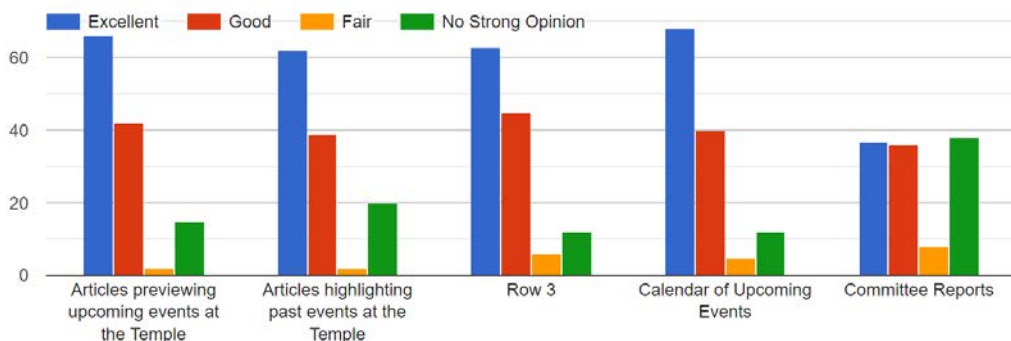
We are grateful to the 128 members who shared their thoughts about our Temple's monthly magazine. Here are some of the takeaways from the survey responses.



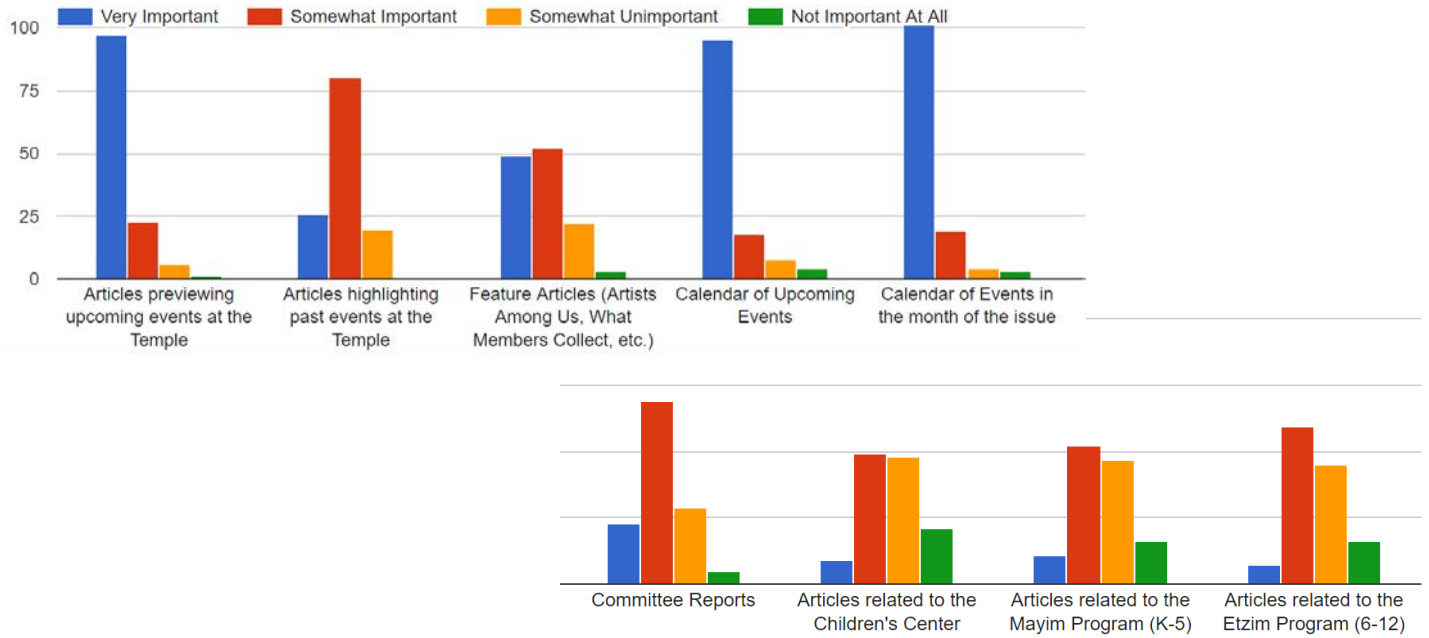
We ask questions periodically to ensure we're meeting the needs of Temple members and are pleased to report that the traits of the physical magazine work well for the majority of our community.



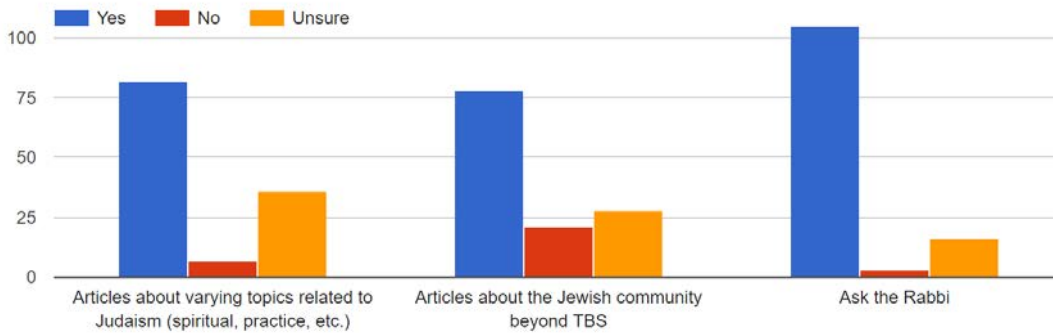
In general, the majority of respondents, who were over the age of 45, felt positively about the quality of Scroll articles.



However, a majority of respondents felt that some of our articles – in particular, articles highlighting past events and articles about our variety of youth education programs – are less important.



We also saw overwhelming interest in types of articles we haven't typically included. Please be on the lookout for new features in upcoming editions!



Thank you to those who responded to our survey. Your feedback is always appreciated. And thank you to all of our readers!

Some final good news: it's not too late to participate in this endeavor! We are always looking for members who want to learn more and possibly join the Scroll committee. We welcomed new Editorial Board members recently, and invite you to join us as well. Feel free to reach out to us at scroll@tbsneedham.org for more information.

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 Rabbi Jay's kindness & spiritual
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 Purim basket
 Everyone who made & delivered the
 Purim bags
 Purim goodies

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Jacob Darish becoming a Bar Mitzvah

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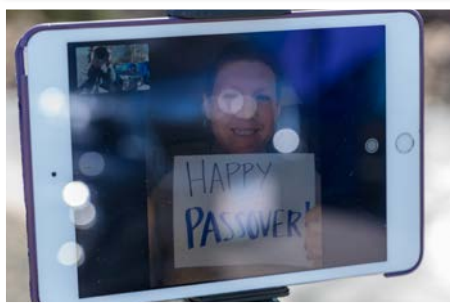
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YIZKOR ELOHIM

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

Marisa Stanewick
 on the passing of her grandmother, Ethel Gertrude Stanewick

David Packer and Natalie Nathanson, Elliot and Gabrielle
 on the passing of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Lyudmila Shekhtman

Josh Fishbein and Jessica Smith, Will and Sam
 on the passing of their father and grandfather, Hal Fishbein

Scott and Margaret McConchie, Sarah, Corvus and Matthew
 on the passing of their mother and grandmother, Susan McConchie

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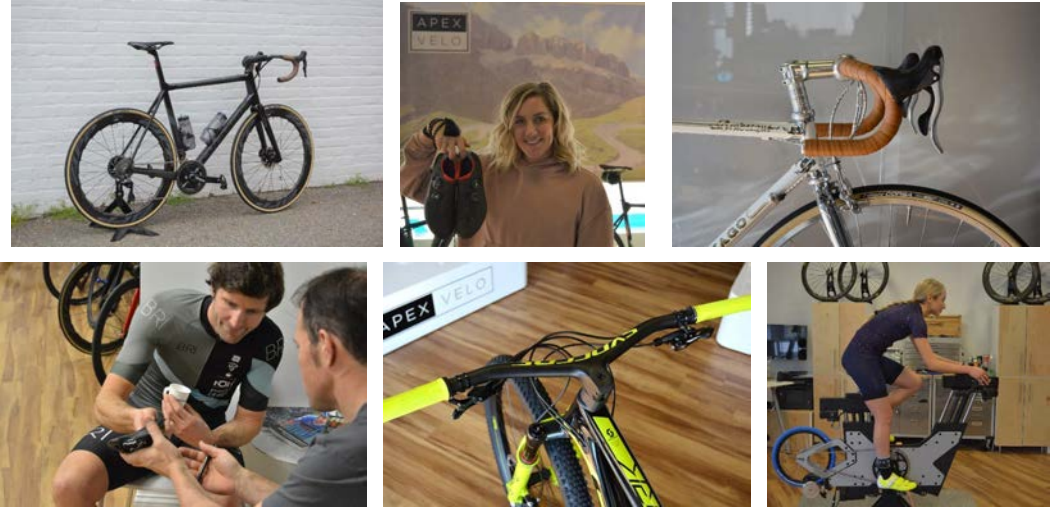


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