

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

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www.tbsneedham.org

Member, Union for Reform Judaism; Affiliated with Synagogue Council of Massachusetts

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"Pooling Our Efforts at TBS"

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

From the Editorial Board

Levity (from the Hebrew lev, meaning heart*) is indeed good for the heart. At a time when worry tugs at our hearts, laughter, mirth, merriment, and even a good dose of silliness can do the heart and soul good. We hope you'll find extra ways to smile as you read through this month's Scroll. We at the Editorial Board had many a hearty laugh as we created - and ruled out - original material. You will, of course, find the key areas we always feature as well. So even if humor isn't your thing, there's plenty here for everyone!

*(Okay, so levity is from the Latin *levitas*, meaning light, but, well, it's meant to be taken with a light dose of... levity!)

Schmears, schmaltz, and schlag. Do you have a passion for cooking Jewish foods? Join our Jewish Food Passion Pageant! Send us up to three photos of your favorite creations for a future Scroll photo feature. If you have a little story to share, you may include that too – up to 100 words.

Deadline: April 15.

Do you feel a spark of warmth, belonging, or joy because of your connection to TBS? From a fellow congregant's kindness to hearing a sermon that spoke to you deeply to, well, maybe, reading something inspiring in the Scroll(!), if you have felt that extra something you're willing to tell us about, we would certainly love to hear it and so would others. Please email us your story, keeping it to 150 words or so. There's no deadline: we'll publish these as they come in.

Please send all submissions to: scroll@tbsneedham.org.

Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board

On the cover: Pooling Our Efforts at TBS

Excavations beneath the blue circle in the TBS lobby revealed a structurally intact swimming pool nestled between the lobby and Children's Library, with 12 lanes thought to date back to the original 12 tribes.

The Board confirmed the pool helps keep our Temple afloat: "We have always counted on a certain amount of liquidity to keep the Temple on solid ground."

The TBS Athletics Committee jumped in and installed a diving board adjacent to the lobby's blue circle: "Now, members can take a deep dive into all things TBS."

Those less adventurous may swim within the lanes as long as you don't let your membership... lapse.

Online Shabbat Services in April

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 (21 NISAN 5781)

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 (21 NISAN 5781)

Torah: Pesach, Ex. 14:30 — 15:21
8:00 AM — Passover and Shabbat Morning Minyan;
Yizkor will be read
9:00 AM — 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?

FRIDAY, APRIL 9 (28 NISAN 5781)

6:15 PM — Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 (28 NISAN 5781)

Torah: Sh'mini, Lev. 9:1 — 11:47 8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan 9:00 AM — Torah Study 9:15 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah B. Mitzvah: Kate Petteruti B. Mitzvah: Rose Wertheim

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 (5 IYAR 5781)

6:15 PM — Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 (5 IYAR 5781)

Torah: Tazria-Metzora, Lev. 12:1 — 13:59 8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan 9:00 AM — Torah Study 9:15 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah B. Mitzvah: Samuel Grush B. Mitzvah: Maytal Kramer

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 (12 IYAR 5781)

6:15 PM — Erev Shabbat Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 (12 IYAR 5781)

Torah: Achare Mot-Kedoshim, Lev. 16:1 — 20:27 8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan 9:00 AM — Torah Study 9:15 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah B. Mitzvah: Max Goldberg

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 (19 IYAR 5781)

6:15 PM — Erev Shabbat Service

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 April - 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

Adult Learning
Brotherhood
Communications
Environmental Action
Garden Club
Inclusion Task Force
Scroll Editorial Board
Sisterhood
Social Action
Three Score/More or Less
Tzedek
Worship

Date and Time

Wed. April 7, 7:30 PM Tues. April 13, 7:15 PM Wed. April 21, 7:15 PM Thurs. April 22, 7:30 PM Tues. April 13, 7:15 PM Mon. April 12, 7:00 PM Tues. April 6, 12:00 PM Thurs. April 15, 7:30 PM Sun. April 11, 4:00 PM Mon. April 5, 7:30 PM Wed. April 14, 7:15 PM Tues. April 6, 7:15 PM

Email Contact for Information

adultlearning@tbsneedham.org brotherhood@tbsneedham.org communications@tbsneedham.org environaction@tbsneedham.org gardenclub@tbsneedham.org inclusion@tbsneedham.org scroll@tbsneedham.org sisterhood@tbsneedham.org socialaction@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

A Matriarch, a Talmudic Sage, and a Rabbi Walk Into a Bar...

By Rabbi Todd Markley



A poor man walking in the forest feels close enough to God to ask, "God, what is a million years to you?" God replies, "My son, a

million years to you is like a second to me." The man asks, "God, what is a million dollars to you?" God replies, "My son, a million dollars to you is less than a penny to me." The man asks, "So God, can I have a million dollars?" And God replies, "In a second."

Humor - and the value of laughter - have been at the center of Jewish tradition for thousands of years now. There is comedy written into the Biblical text, to be sure. I can't help but think of the moment in Genesis when our matriarch,

Rebecca - seeing her soon-to-be husband, Isaac, for the first time - is so taken by his good looks that she falls off the camel she's riding. Our Sages brought humor into their legal writings in the Talmud as in this passage: "Is it permissible to build a sukkah on the deck of a ship? Rabbi Gamliel said it is not permitted as it may blow away. Rabbi Akivah argued that it is permitted. It happened that Rabbis Gamliel and Akivah were traveling together on a ship during Sukkot, and Rabbi Akivah went up and built a sukkah on the deck of the ship. The next day, the wind blew it away. Rabbi Gamliel went to him and asked, 'Rabbi Akivah...where'd your sukkah go?'" (To paraphrase modern-day parlance...this was a "devastating rabbi burn.")

In the ensuing generations, humor has only come to be more at the center of Jewish writing and Jewish life. In his work *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious*, Sigmund Freud analyzed the centrality of wit among the Jewish people and concluded that one of its defining traits - unlike humor from many other cultures - is that Jews often use comedy to poke fun at ourselves. Jews are known for telling jokes about our rituals and practices, about our assimilation into other cultures, about bad behavior within the Jewish community, and - as the opening of this message conveyed - even about God.

Yet, Jewish norms and idiosyncrasies are far from the only targets of the jokes our people have crafted. We've also used humor to get us through some of the darkest times in our history, as conveyed in the joke about the WWII-era Jew found reading Nazi propaganda material, and when questioned about it, he replied, "When I used to read the Jewish papers, all I learned about were pogroms, riots in Palestine, and assimilation in America. But now that I read *Der Stürmer*, I see so much more: that the Jews control all the banks, that we dominate in the arts, and that we're on the verge of taking over the entire world. You know – it makes me feel a whole lot better!" Sometimes we have to laugh to avoid weeping.

Whether poking fun at ourselves, at authoritarian regimes, or even at God, we have long understood that living by our wits in difficult circumstances also means living with wit. Humor is an incredible tool for addressing life's most important and challenging matters in ways that might otherwise be too challenging to convey or confront without it. Perhaps it is because of the countless challenges our people have faced over the centuries that, in 1978, *Time* magazine opened its article on Jewish comics by noting, "Although Jews constitute only 3% of the U.S. population, 80% of the nation's professional comedians are Jewish." We continue that tradition in our own day as we dedicate this edition of the *Scroll* to humor. I hope that you find some reasons for smiles and laughter within these pages, or - at least - that you react to each joke with the classically Jewish response, "I've heard it before, and you're telling it wrong anyhow."

April Highlights

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

Sisterhood Art Night: Decoupage with Lauren Karp Kinghorn

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 PM

Learn about decoupage and create art! Lauren will guide us in decoupaging our own bowl. Participants will need to gather paper such as tissue, napkins, magazine cut outs, and wrapping paper for the project. Lauren is a fan of the Japanese papers from Paper Source, but any paper will work. Also, participants will need scissors, a basin for water, a balled up piece of wax paper, a covered surface, and some cotton swabs.

Registration to receive the items needed for this event ended in March.

If you would like to purchase items on your own and join us, or for more information, please contact: sisterhood@tbsneedham.org



Marc Comras Award Morning Program and... "King David, Groucho Marx and Moshe Dayan Walk into a Bar:"

An Analysis-Driven Look at Men, Israel, and Israelis Sunday, April 11, 9:00 - 10:45 AM

Every year TBS Brotherhood presents the Marc Comras Award to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional service to the TBS community. Brotherhood is pleased to announce that Peggy Lowenstein is this year's Award recipient. Join us and congratulate Peggy for her dedication and commitment to TBS!

Then join us as Rabbi Rich Kirschen, from Jerusalem, helps us to explore the image of the Jewish male and consider what defines Jewish masculinity. Through both ancient and modern texts along with film clips, we will discuss the transformation of Jewish male role models and their connection to power and powerlessness.

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

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

Needham Community Holocaust Remembrance Day Program Remembering Elie Wiesel: A Passion for Celebration

Sunday, April 11, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us as TBS and Temple Aliyah gather virtually for our annual Yom HaShoah Remembrance Program. This year we welcome Dr. Alan Rosen, who served as a teaching assistant and doctoral student under Dr. Elie Wiesel for ten years and with whom Dr. Rosen remained close for almost forty years. Dr. Rosen has authored or edited fourteen books on Holocaust literature, testimony, and history. Through his presentation, Dr. Rosen will reflect upon Dr. Wiesel's focus on the power of celebration as a driving force for his teaching and personal Holocaust testimony. Our program will conclude with prayers of memorial.

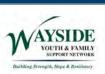
Please register at t-b-s.me/NeedhamYomHaShoah to receive a Zoom link by email.

Diaper & Wipes Drive-Up Collection for Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Sunday, April 11, 1:00 - 2:00 PM, TBS front parking lot

Help TBS Social Action support families served by Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, a non-profit organization offering family support services to children, young adults, and families in Massachusetts, including a Family Resource Center with multicultural nurturing programs and early childhood services.





We are requesting and will accept donations of any brand of unopened diapers and wipes. Wayside will then distribute our donations to families in need. We will transfer your items from your car for you when you drive up.

If you are unable to attend at this time, you can arrange to drop off your donation at a Needham residence prior to April 11. To do so, please contact Kelley Daron at: waysidesupport@tbsneedham.org

Sign up for a specific time slot to ensure safe and efficient delivery, at: t-b-s.me/diaper

Questions? Please contact Kelley Daron (waysidesupport@tbsneedham.org)



A Night of Jazz - Live from your Zoom screen!

Sunday, April 11, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Join Three Score/More or Less for a free program of live jazz performed by local musicians Ben Atkins on guitar and Brian Newark on electric bass. Ben and Brian have performed together over the last few years at over 100 venues. Popular restaurants in the Worcester area, including the Greater Good Brewery and Nick's, one of the best venues for local





music, have welcomed Ben and Brian to their stage. The duo will play a medley of lighthearted jazz classics from the Great American Songbook in their soothing repertoire. This event is open to the entire TBS community. Take time to relax and enjoy a captivating concert!

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

Questions? Contact: Gary Goldman (threescoremoreorless@tbsneedham.org)



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

Friday, April 16, 9:15 to 9:45 AM, 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 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 April 16, 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

Beth Shalom Garden Club - with Maureen Christmas: "Designs for Entertaining - Who Cares How The Food Tastes If The Flowers Look Great?"

Tuesday, April 20, 7:15 PM

Beth Shalom Garden Club will welcome Maureen Christmas, a studio-based florist in Acton, MA, who will present her program on "Designs for Entertaining - Who Cares How The Food Tastes If The Flowers Look Great?" Maureen specializes in creating beautiful floral designs for special events, especially weddings and corporate events. She is a Master Level Garden Club Flower Show Judge, has exhibited at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and has won many awards at Flower Shows. She will delight everyone with her designs - you can see some of her work at: floralnotesacton.com.



To register and receive a Zoom link, and for more information about this event, send email to: gardenclub@tbsneedham.org.



Save the Date

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 bit.ly/2021TzedekLDBPIWalkRegistration to register, and to donate if you choose to do so. When you register, 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

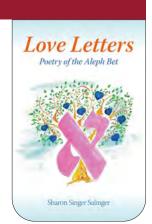
Love Letters: Poetry of the Aleph Bet A Virtual Presentation by Poet/Illustrator Sharon Singer Salinger

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



Recurring Events

Advance registration 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.



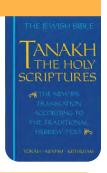
Torah Study is Great, but What Happens in the REST of the Hebrew Bible?

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 lews 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)



Meatless Monday Needham

The TBS Environmental Action Committee invites you to join Meatless Monday Needham. This is a public awareness campaign to encourage healthy eating habits that prioritize human and environmental health. Supporters are asked to take a simple online pledge: serve meatless, healthy plant-based meals on Mondays for 12 weeks from the date of their pledge.

Please explore the Meatless Monday Needham website (meatlessmondayneedham.org) and Facebook Page for further information, to sign up, and to find some tasty recipes and cooking resources.



Recurring Events continued...

Job Seeker Support Group with Jewish Vocational Services

April 8 and 22, 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) has partnered with TBS for a free bi-weekly Job Search Support Group. The goal of this group is to provide support, information, and strategies to professionals in managing their job search in the age of Covid-19. This series will be run by experienced Career Professional Amy Mazur. To receive email notice of the dates and a Zoom link, please email the instructor (Amy Mazur) directly: amazur@jvs-boston.org. For more information: check the flyer at bit.ly/jobseekdetails or contact Amy Mazur (amazur@jvs-boston.org)



The Role of Laughter In Building Relationships with Children

By Rachel Happel

I often receive calls from other synagogues seeking to learn about and emulate our Mayim program. After I describe our goals, process, program, and more, the person inevitably says something along the lines of: "That sounds like amazing learning, but what does it *feel* like? Are the children happy to be there?" My response always includes phrases like "joyful learning," "positive energy," "playful atmosphere," and even "culture of laughter!"

That's right, laughter! When I learned that humor was the theme of this month's *Scroll*, I began to reflect on how we inspire laughter in our K-12 learning programs. One of the hallmarks of our Mayim program is "Mifgash," an approach that supports children's social and emotional learning by creating bonds that bind a class together. Mifgash, a Jewish twist we gave to the Morning Meeting developed by Responsive Classroom, is made up of four sequential components:

- 1. Greeting Children greet each other by name, often including handshaking, clapping, singing, and other activities.
- 2. Sharing Children share some news of interest to the group and respond to each other, articulating their thoughts, feelings, and ideas in a positive manner.
- 3. Group Activity The whole group does a short activity together, building class cohesion through active participation. The group activity often includes challenges, games, songs, etc. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the group to cooperate and *laugh and have fun together*, in order to build cohesion.
- **4. Mifgash Message**: Children practice academic skills and warm up for the day by reading and discussing a daily message posted for them

 -Adapted from The Morning Meeting Book by Roxann Kriete

When I walk down the halls of Mayim (or - this year - pop in to Zoom learning sessions), I always hear a lot of laughter and joy as the children and their educators engage in their group activities. This laughter builds cohesion and fosters a relaxed atmosphere in which children feel comfortable learning and being creative together.

An article called 11 Ways to Encourage Your Child's Sense of Humor on scholastic.com shares that:

"Humor is one of a number of things — like art or dramatic play — that children can create. Humor, in turn, fosters a relaxed and playful climate in which further creativity is more likely to occur. Humor, creativity, playfulness, and play are closely connected, so a home or classroom that's conducive to any of them is likely to have an abundance of all of them and be filled with the laughter of happy children." (For suggestions about how to encourage your child's sense of humor at home, read the full article here: http://t-b-s.me/ChildrenHumor.)

Humor and laughter are absolutely essential to our learning approach in Mayim and Etzim; in fact, they are just as essential as the more typical content areas of Torah, holidays, and Hebrew! Without them, we would not be able to engage in the rich, creative projects that are another hallmark of the programs.

B. Mitzvah A Walk Back in Time...

We asked some familiar faces around TBS to take us back to their own days of celebration!



Name: Jessica (Moshell) Baim

B. Mitzvah date: October 24, 1987, in Fairfax, VA

D'var Torah topic: All I remember about my speech is saying "hi mom, hi dad" from the lectern on the bimah.

Interests: Participating in Temple Youth (USY) programs, playing cards and board games, and reading. **Memory**: I had a Russian "twin" for my bat mitzvah! I think we exchanged letters once. This was very popular in the '80s in some communities; you can read more about it in this NYT article from 1983: t-b-s.me/letters



P.S. I hated my dress then, and I still hate it now. It looks like a tablecloth. My mom said we went to every store in Virginia and Maryland looking for a dress. I don't recall that, but based on my experience with my daughter, I'm sure she's right!



Name: Sara (Wittenberg) Berk

B. Mitzvah date: November 16, 1996, in Jamaica Estates, NY

D'var Torah topic: My Torah portion was about the Jacob and Esau story, when Rebecca covered Jacob's arm with fur from a kid in order to trick his father, Isaac, into giving him the birthright. Isaac judged Jacob by the surface of his skin, which I connected to my community service work, with children with disabilities. At the time of my bat mitzvah, I had been working with children with disabilities for 3.5 years and it has continued since.

Interests: Hanging out with my friends, participating in my temple youth group, going to camp, going to movies, and listening to music.

Memory: After my bat mitzvah ceremony, I walked outside with five of my closest friends to find a limo waiting for us to take us to the party! My uncle worked for a limo company and planned it with my parents as a surprise for me. The video of the six of us screaming when we saw the limo is hilarious!



Name: Rabbi Julie Bressler

B. Mitzvah date: October 28, 2000, in Lafayette, CA

D'var Torah topic: I read from Parshat Bereshit and spoke about the story of Cain and Abel through an imagined conversation about what they may have talked about before Cain killed Abel. I remember that I ended with the words, "Am I my brother's keeper? Absolutely!"

Interests: Temple youth group, ballet, piano, boy bands, softball, basketball, volleyball Memory: The Bressler family has a tradition of writing rhyming poems for special occasions and performing them complete with costumes, props, and audience participation. My 17-year-old brother was horrified to perform in front of his friends but he was a good sport about it. We also left a permanent mark on the synagogue building by dropping the Havdalah candle and leaving a tiny burn mark on the stage in the social hall!



Name: Sarah (Kreiger) Damelin

B. Mitzvah date: April 13th, 1991, in Bridgeport, CT

D'var Torah topic: I have the original right here - apparently I spoke about the friendship of Jonathan and David as a model of loyalty and love.

Interests: Swimming, lacrosse, woodworking, climbing trees, and hiking.

Memory: I really loved nature and being outdoors, so there were small decorative trees as the centerpieces at the celebration. Afterwards, we donated them to a few local senior centers. We planted a tree in Israel in honor of everyone who attended, so there is a garden in Israel with my name on it. It's still growing - JNF told me the location when I asked last year!

B. Mitzvah A Walk Back in Time... continued



Name: Ellen Dietrick

B. Mitzvah date: April 21, 1990, near Vienna, VA.

Interests: Running a camp for preschoolers in my backyard in the summers.

Memory: It was the Friday night before my bat mitzvah and my family gathered in the sanctuary for the beginning of the Shabbat service. My grandparents had taken my two younger siblings out to dinner so that my parents could focus on getting me ready at the temple. My grandparents and siblings arrived in the sanctuary and walked to the front row. My five year old sister sat down and immediately fell asleep across the pew. This was a bit unusual as it was only 7:00 PM, but she was only five so we all figured she had a long week. Then my grandpa leaned over to my mom and whispered, "Honey, we ordered an orange juice for her at dinner and....well....we think she drank a screwdriver." As it turned out, the waiter had made a big mistake that night. He had served my five year old sister vodka with her dinner. Luckily, she took only a few sips before deciding it tasted funny and refusing to drink any more. So needless to say, my sister ended up missing that service. And we all learned to smell drinks served in restaurants before allowing children to drink them!



Name: Cantor DJ Fortine

B. Mitzvah date: October 2, 2004, at Temple Israel, New Rochelle, NY

D'var Torah topic: Even though we love our favorite athletes, we shouldn't idolize them the way the Israelites idolized the golden calf!

Interests: Sedulously following the New York Mets, playing baseball, and spending time with my basset hound, Kirby.

Memory: Making kiddush in the temple courtyard following the service, and being overcome with utter confusion and fear due to the unannounced graduation from grape juice to kosher merlot in the kiddush cup.



Name: Rahel (Block) Gruenberg

B. Mitzvah date: August 25, 1999, in Stoughton, MA

D'var Torah topic: I don't remember what I talked about but I know my Torah portion had to do with sacrifices.

Interests: Country music, playing outside, Camp Kingswood for life!

Memory: I remember loving my dress! It had pockets and I didn't have to wear shoes as it was so long it covered my feet!



Name: Rachel (Clark) Happel

B. Mitzvah Date: June 26, 1987, at Temple Tifereth Israel, Malden, MA

D'var Torah topic: I really have no idea! My parsha was Korach, so maybe I spoke about leadership? I think I remember talking about Moses. Mostly I remember thanking a lot of people.

Interests: Drawing and painting, figure skating, listening to music, talking on the phone, going to the mall, going to the movies.

Memory: My bat mitzvah took place on a Friday evening and was followed by a festive oneg Shabbat. During the oneg, I was making the rounds, talking to the friends of my parents and grandparents. When I finally got to talk to my own friends, they were all talking about the delicious ice cream sandwiches that had been served. I went up to the table to get one, and there weren't any left! I remember being really upset by that. My grandfather, who shared my love of sweets and was a big mensch, brought me an ice cream sandwich the next day.



Name: Rosie Kahan

B. Mitzvah Date: July 1, 2006, Temple Shalom, New Milford, CT

D'var Torah topic: My d'var was about women rabbis. I focused on the story of oranges on the Seder plate and feminism's place in Judaism.

Interests: I was an avid dancer, and had recently donated 18 inches of hair to Locks of Love! **Memory:** My bat mitzvah was July 1st, so I had a pool party for my party! My mom gifted me a pair of earrings with freshwater pearls to wear to my bat mitzvah and I gave them to her to wear when I went swimming. That's the only time I've worn them; my mom still has the earrings. They look great on her!



Name: Rabbi Todd Markley

B. Mitzvah Date: April 11, 1987, at Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport, CT

D'var Torah topic: Some arcane topic from Leviticus, and not The Ten Commandments, which my best friend got to write about!

Interests: Playing guitar, hanging out with friends, and buying many CDs for the CD player I got for my bar mitzyah.

Memory: I had a full-blown, five-alarm, nerve-induced meltdown in our family's kitchen just days before my bar mitzvah. While my parents lovingly supported and encouraged me back to a healthy and excited place by the time my bar mitzvah celebration arrived, that experience has left me with a special empathy for those 13-year-olds who are a little extra anxious about their own big days. If someone had tried to tell my 13-year-old self that I would someday be the rabbi officiating at b. mitzvah services, he surely would have laughed, and laughed, and laughed...



Name: Rabbi Jay Perlman

B. Mitzvah Date: May 30, 1981, at Temple Tifereth Israel, Malden, MA

D'var Torah topic: My Torah Portion was B'Midbar (the opening portion in the Book of Numbers). I honestly can't remember what I wrote about. But, since the portion is about counting, I'll bet I included something about the Celtics and Larry Bird!

Interests: Sports, especially basketball and baseball, the Red Sox and Celtics; drawing; riding my bike; hanging out with friends

Memory: I had a great Bar Mitzvah! For the service – a la 1981 – I was dressed in a powder blue tuxedo (for the luncheon AND the service), complete with bow tie, ruffles (!), and cummerbund.



Green Tip

When possible, avoid using paper plates and plastic plates and cutlery, as they are not environmentally friendly. Paper is produced by cutting down trees and uses a very high volume of water. Plastic plates and cutlery contain a lot of toxic materials, which harm the environment when they end up in landfills. Since most plastic cutlery can be only used once. billions of forks, knives, and spoons are thrown away each year. Cutlery can take centuries to break down naturally and is deadly to turtles, birds, and mammals.

Mark Your Calendar (But Don't Plan on It)

TBS Swim & Schvitz* Club

GRAND OPENING!

Our new pool, customized by certified geniuses - engineers from MIT, dermatologists, oceanographers and piscine biologists toiling in a classified research lab in Israel - offers opportunities for exercise, sport, whole-body wellbeing, and, yes, even worship in a family-friendly setting.

- Fishing Lessons! Sunday through Thursday only: on Shabbat, the fish "rest." Thy rod and Thy reel, they comfort me.
- Stretch & Sweat in our Hot (Schvitz) Yoga Class!
- Facial Steaming -May the Pores be with You!
- Work Off your Mind-and-Body Weight with our Adjustable Guilt Settings!
- Special Holy Day events:
 - Pray & Paddle for preschoolers who can multitask
 - Water & Worship Spiritual Shape-Up Aerobics for the Soul













ALL SET TO GET WET???? Register: t-b-s.me/swim-schvitz

Schnapps and Schvitz





Join us on April 31 for this special event in Simon Hall.

We will have a variety of schnapps to taste and we will take turns in the sauna for the schvitz. Bring your own bathing suit, flip flops and towel (no sharing please).

Cost: Bring a bottle of good schnapps.

Thank you to the TBS facilities staff for assembling the porta-schvitz. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome.

Bowling in Community Court

Reserve your time at the brand new TBS bowling alley! You must bring your own bowling ball and shoes in order to be Covid-compliant. One family unit per time slot. Thank you to our outstanding facilities team for constructing this state-of-the-art, full-scale, fully functional recreation!

Register: t-b-s.me/BowlingInTheCourt







A Super Schmear at TBS



TBS is seeking to rehabilitate the good name of some celebrated super schmearers known and loved in our community.

Please join us for an event featuring representatives from Nutella, Jif Peanut Butter, Marshmallow Fluff, Miracle Whip, I Can't Believe It's Not Butter, Land O'Lakes Margarine, and Hellmann's Mayonnaise. In her keynote address, the CEO of Land O'Lakes will address her company's belated





attempts to trademark the LOL character string. Jif's CFO will sympathize with stories of the sticky mess that arose with the popularity of GIF. "It was nuts," he asserts.

Mark your calendars and spread the word!

Register: t-b-s.me/schmear



Scroll Troll Rabbit Hole Challenge

How many four-letter Anglo-Saxon root words can you make with three Hebrew letters?

This six-part series of classes, co-sponsored by Hebrew College and the TBS Adult Learning Committe will be led by our very own rabbis: Bressler, Markley and Perlman (in Aleph-Bet order), on alternating weeks in Hebrew months beginning with Adar.

After completing the entire six-part course, you are encouraged to email your list by May 35th, 5782. Winner, to be published in the July Scroll, will receive a limited edition of Hebrew Scrabble from the TBS Judaica Gift & Tackle Shop.

Register: t-b-s.me/hebrewscrabble



Now Accepting Reservations for Virtual Parking Spaces

With the new TBS Swim & Schvitz Club nearing completion, the office is now accepting reservations for Virtual Parking. Spaces are limited.

Order your space online today: t-b-s.me/VPark



News Roundup: No News is Real News

Matzo Recycling Reborn in Needham

The Needham Transfer Station has terminated its recycling contract with Plywood Ranch and entered into a new partnership with a trendy Palm Beach start-up to recycle uneaten matzo (in full sheets only). The patented process peels the outer veneer to be used in corduroy manufacturing, while the central portion is used for construction concrete. This new plant-based form of construction material saves the rainforest and eliminates the need for metal framework. Because it is not plant-based, egg matzo is not allowed. The start-up owner, recently relocated to Florida, is confident that his Stop the Steel process, test marketed in Washington, D.C., will be received bigly in the construction world.



TBS Now in Guinness Book of World Records

Records are the name of the game in the theological world: oil burning for eight days, walking on water, moving a mountain, etc. Modern-day equivalents include the USPS for making sure Bed Bath & Beyond mailings arrive on time and CVS for stepping up the length of register receipts to provide free facial quality tissue during the COVID crisis. While these may be deliberate attempts to ensure recognition in the annals of history, many achievements have occurred accidentally. Take the case of TBS, which almost broke the internet in what was not intended to be a record-setting feat, but, as it turns out, apparently was. It seems an erroneous outside programming error occurred, resulting in thousands of emails being sent confirming each email that had been previously sent. When reached for comment, the rabbis confirmed they merely intended to send out an email about... Confirmation.



Chanukiah Construction on Central Avenue

Needham residents have lived through the demolition of iconic Owens Poultry Farm, the construction of the Sunita Williams School, and the construction of the town garage at the Needham Recycling & Transfer Station (NRTS). If you're thinking no more possible improvement can be done on Central Avenue, you're sorely mistaken.

In conjunction with a neighboring temple and Chabad center, TBS has announced the construction of six communications towers collinear with the existing towers at the NRTS. This aspires to make Needham home to the largest Chanukah Menorah in the world. Each



night of Chanukah, a drone, piloted by Rabbi Todd, will place new solar-powered LED displays atop the shamash and then light the other towers. When asked for comment, TBS teens agreed, "That's lit!"

Elijah

Due to advanced age and congregate living, Elijah was prioritized to receive the COVID vaccine. Elijah and his cohorts, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, and a Mr. Claus, were among the first to be inoculated. The CDC says Elijah poses no threat to the spread of COVID as long as he sanitizes with Manischewitz.



TBS Rebrands Fund

Donors please note:

The Garden Beautification Fund will no longer be known as the Hedge Fund.

Spelling Bee Confusion

The annual National Spelling Bee is trying to regain the reputation it once had. Last year, during the tie breaker, a contestant asked, "Can you use it in a sentence?" The host read from a script but the choice was confusing: "The lack of congregants is attributed to a viral influenza/influencer." Next year, for clarity, a TBS Bostonian will write and read the sentences. Applicants may apply to PahkwaySpellinBee.oyg.

Welcome New Immigrants: HSL Mixup

In New England, the HSL logo of Hebrew Senior Life is ubiquitous. Now the State of Israel has filed a suit for trademark infringement. Apparently the Israeli governmental program to assimilate new immigrants into the country teaches Hebrew as a Second Language (HSL) classes, mostly online. With the internet accessible everywhere, students of all ages have ended up on the Hebrew Senior Life website and decided to emigrate to Dedham. Please welcome them in any language.



Case Against Rabbi Dismissed

A suit had been filed in Southern California against a rabbi who had been a very successful contestant on the game show Wheel of Fortune. Authorities grew suspicious upon discovering a pattern: she never bought a vowel. But, in a pretrial filing, the rabbi stated that she reads the Torah every day and sees no need for vowels. Judge Milton Kaufstein praised her creativity, dismissed the suit, and joined her congregation.



We Are Here for You (not a joke)

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!

Letters

Dear Editors,

As a long-time member of Temple Beth Shalom, and as a regular attendee, I was delighted to hear about the plans for roof-top parking. What a creative way to solve our dire parking problem, particularly difficult during the High Holy Days. Such foresight, such boldness! But oy vey I am a bissel (little) confused. It is not my intention to kvetch, but I drove a full hour round and round and round the property and found no ramp. I grew so agitated (not to mention dizzy) I feared I'd plotz (\$@&! collapse). Please help me find the entrance to the ramp.

Toda.

Avia Goldberg, your neighbor at the corner of Greendale Ave and the parking lot

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the article about hoarding in the November Scroll. I've put it with the others.

Irma Kleghorn

Dear Editors,

You always ask if we found a spark at TBS. Well I did. During Chanukah celebration at Friday night Shabbat Services, it came time to light the menorah when it happened. Someone replaced the fourth candle of the menorah with a sparkler. As soon as the Rabbi lit the fourth candle, the sparks started flying. Oy vey - it was quite an event. The Rabbi was yelling for help and Leandro came running with a fire extinguisher to extinguish the spark. It was exciting to watch but thank G-d no one got hurt. Our beautiful sanctuary was certainly sparkling.

A member for just over a year,

Nancy Neetzootz

Dear Editor,

I filled out the survey about the Scroll saying I wanted more humor. So what are you waiting for?

Sincerely,

Theodora Bess Stein (aka TBS)

Ask the Rabbi

Dear Rabbi:

Your sermon last year about how to handle bumps in the road was so meaningful to my husband and me. And how clever of you to put those yellow bumps in the parking lot to remind us of your message each and every time we drove to Temple for services. Now that we attend online, we don't want to forget what you said, so you'll be proud to know we put our broom and mop across the floor so every time we trip over them we remember your wonderful message.

btw, what was the name of that orthopedist you mentioned last time?

Yours very truly,

Gladys Notreal



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR IMAGINERY ADVERTISERS

 $E = mC^2$

Mathematical help wanted:

Our client is seeking half of an infinity pool.

We are trying to figure out: what size would that be?

Please contact us at:

mathhelp@FromHeretoInfinityPools.com

Errata:

One of last month's ads contained a few errors.

Our most recent B. Mitzvah family was very disappointed when their Shabbat brunch featured ten pounds of padlocks. We ask that future ads not be dictated to Alexa or other software. To allay confusion, the corrected ad copy is below.

Planning a B Mitzvah? Call us!

We at Needham Loxsmiths, purveyor of smoked salmon in MetroWest, will cater to your every whim. 781-stu-slox



Seeking a new look for your home? Need help redecorating?

Call THE DREKORATOR





I can make your home look...well... different.

Phone: 781-0Y-VEY4U

"I may not have any experience, but I know what I like."

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Margaret Rodman Vera Rosenbaum Edna Rosin Phyllis Rotman Marcia Sabbath Wallace Salshutz Peggy Aron Samet Fine

Vera Sanker Fredric Marvin Schiffman David Sherman Harold Sloane

Sadie Smith Irving Spigle Eva Stocklan

S. Paul Strauss

Yetta Taitz Susan Lipsett deVries Mildred Wainer Estelle Waller Gerald "Jerry" Weinberg Marjorie Whitecross Sam Wilensky Harold Young Benjamin Zakon

Isay Zeylikman APRIL 23

Sue Sara Akell Sylvia Aptheker Florence Basner Gertrude Berkowitz Richard E. Blumsack Laurel Fay Brandt Robert Buchman Sheldon Canal Lillian Carp Rose M. Cherenson Linda Epstein Irma Feldman Alan H. Freedman Zoltan Fried Marilyn Friedman Samuel Frydman De Witt R. Gayle, Jr. Jack Gilbert Michael Glaser Rubin Gold Robert J. Gordon Rochelle "Ro" Gottlieb Irene Grebber Norman Greenfield Ruth A. Halpert David Hasha Hilda Isenstadt Seymour Jeruss Elaine Karnow Lawrence W. Keepnews Lillian Komorsky Miriam Landy Morris Lasden Michael Lourie Adam L. May Gertrude Michaels Jerry Minden Estelle Nash Minerva Posses Louis Reiss

Florence Rodenstein

Louis Rotman **Emil Sadler** Nancy Alperin Samores Iosif Savikovskiy Phyllis Scheinberg Alex Schumacher Harry Sherman Alice Sherman Charlotte Shoemaker Philip Simon John Sinclair Harry Slawsby Rose Spellman Lois G. Swack Beatrice Taitz Robert Temkin Jason J. Timmons

APRIL 30

Morris V. Aarons Shirley Berg Esther Rose Bloom Jane Clayton-Matthews Ralph Cohen Harold Davis Steven Feingold Barbara Franceschini Rose Friedman Kate Gabrilove Cele Glou Morris Goldberg Robert Davis Goldman Ruth Golub Richard Gordon Neil Grossman Lillian Jacobs Sylvia Jaffe Arlene R. Kahn Estelle S. Katcher Lowell Keller Florence Klein Beverly Kosloff Ellen Hyman Langer Alan Lundberg Thelma Marcus Lillian Morse Eva Narcus Nathan Order Nancie Ostroff Esther Duker Pollack Samuel Pressman Ellen Ricciardelli **Doris Robbins** Sydelle Rosenberg Alfred "Al" Rotman Esther "Bobbi" Sadow William Schultz Lillian Shapiro Tillie Shusterman Jeffrey Sirlin Mark Smuckler Joseph Solinsky Philip Stein Marion Stiner Jr. **Edward Talcoff** Albert Timmerman Joseph Watkin Kenneth Weiss Ray Weissman Benjamin Wiener

YIZKOR ELOHIM

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

Florence Schumacher on the passing of her husband, Jerry Schumacher

Wendy and Bill Shulman, Sophie and Simon on the passing of their brother and uncle, Lenny Brunswick

Wendy Gutterson & David Crandell, Sam, and Tzipora on the passing of their aunt and great-aunt, Linda Glasser

Suzanne Lipsky, Caron and Arnold Savenor, Jolie, Jason, and Sasha on the passing of their daughter, sister and aunt, Andrea Lipsky

H. Henry Young

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