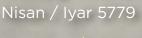


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From the Editorial Board

"Keep It Simple, Sweetheart."

Every budding author has heard some variation on the expression that less is more. In this issue, we'll hear from those among us who take that and other words of wisdom to heart as they put pen to paper and finger to keyboard as authors. We will also hear about advice on simplicity that the Children's Center parents and teachers received from an author of national renown. Cleaning out the clutter can turn your trash into someone else's treasure – and help you simplify life at home. Pitch in for Sisterhood's Rummage Sale! And finally, for a simply stunning celebration of a simply wonderful rabbi, please read all about Rabbi Todd's Bar Mitzvah Celebration – and join in the fun!

Joni Burstein on behalf of the Editorial Board



ENDOWMENT FUND

Temple Beth Shalom is very grateful to Murielle and Ralph Gerard, longstanding and dedicated TBS members of blessed memory, who chose to remember our congregation with a legacy gift from their estate in gratitude for their years of connection to our community. May Ralph and Murielle's memories always be for a blessing.

Please join the TBS community for

Minyan

Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM. Monday through Thursday evenings at 6:45 PM. All at TBS.

Services in May

FRIDAY, MAY 3 (29 NISAN 5779)

7:15 PM — Simchat Shabbat Service (Sanctuary) Celebrating Rabbi Todd and the Markley Family's 13 Years at TBS!

SATURDAY, MAY 4 (29 NISAN 5779)

Torah: Achare Mot II, Lev. 18:1 — 30
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan
(at First Parish Unitarian Universalist)
9:00 AM — Torah Study
(at First Parish Unitarian Universalist)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
B'nei Mitzvah: Cleo Berg and Jared Kristall

FRIDAY, MAY 10 (6 IYAR 5779)

6:15 PM — Kehillah Kids Service (*Beit Midrash*) 7:15 PM — Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 11 (6 IYAR 5779)

Torah: Kedoshim, Lev. 19:1 — 20:27
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
(Conference Room)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
B'nei Mitzvah: Miriam T. Bergeron and Zachary Weiner

FRIDAY, MAY 17 (13 IYAR 5779)

7:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 18 (13 IYAR 5779)

Torah: Emor, Lev. 21:1 — 24:23
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
(Conference Room)

11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary) B'nei Mitzvah: Adam Sirk and Noah Sprinsky 5:00 PM — Shabbat Mincha Service (Sanctuary) Bar Mitzvah: Justin Carita

MONDAY, MAY 20 (15 IYAR 5779)

11:00 AM — Morning Service (Sanctuary) Bar Mitzvah: Harrison Kruglak

FRIDAY, MAY 24 (20 IYAR 5779)

6:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, MAY 25 (20 IYAR 5779)

Shabbat Behar, Lev. 25:1 - 16:2
8:30 AM — Shabbat Morning Minyan (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Torah Study (*Beit Midrash*)
9:00 AM — Finding Our Jewish Values in Torah
(Large Conference Room)
11:00 AM — Shabbat Morning Service (Sanctuary)
B'nei Mitzvah: Dylan Levine and Danielle Sockol

FRIDAY, MAY 31 (27 IYAR 5779)

6:15 PM — Shabbat Evening Service (Sanctuary) 6:15 PM — Tot Shabbat Service (*Beit Midrash*)

Committee Meetings in May - Get Involved!

Committee Name Upcoming Meeting Date

Adult Learning Wed. May 8, 7:30 PM Brotherhood Tues. May 14, 7:15 PM Communications Wed. May 15, 7:15 PM Tues. May 7, 7:00 PM Garden Club Inclusion Task Force Wed. May 8, 7:30 PM Every Wed. 10:00 AM Library Scroll Editorial Board Thurs. May 9, 12:00 Noon* Shomrei Adamah Thurs. May 23, 7:30 PM Sisterhood Wed. May 8, 7:30 PM Teen Engagement Mon. May 13, 7:30 PM Three Score/More or Less Mon. May 6, 7:30 PM

Email Contact for Information

adult_learning@tbsneedham.org brotherhood@tbsneedham.org communications@tbsneedham.org gardenclub@tbsneedham.org inclusion@tbsneedham.org library@tbsneedham.org scrolled@tbsneedham.org shomreiadamah@tbsneedham.org sisterhood@tbsneedham.org teen_engagement@tbsneedham.org threescoremoreorless@tbsneedham.org

Please check with the email contact beforehand in case of a last-minute change and for meeting location.



^{*} Rice Barn, 1037 Great Plain Avenue, Needham

From Our Leadership A National Leader and Visionary Shares Torah at TBS – Join Us! By Jeffrey Shapiro, Congregational President

During the weekend of May 3rd - 5th the TBS Community is fortunate to be celebrating the 13th Anniversary of Rabbi Todd's sacred service to our community and the gifts that Michele, Mia, and Adam share with our TBS family. Enriching the meaning of the weekend is the honor of having the President of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, join us for Shabbat Evening Services and Torah Study during this milestone weekend that celebrates the special ways Rabbi Todd sparks our community, engages our families, and invites us to become our best selves.

Who Is Rabbi Jacobs?

As President of the URJ, Rabbi Jacobs represents nearly 900 Reform congregations across North America, encompassing approximately 1.5 million individuals. The depth and breadth of the Reform Movement make it the largest, most inclusive and broad-based Jewish movement in North America. Rabbi Jacobs has focused Reform Judaism on three core principles: 1) Strengthening Congregations, 2) Audacious Hospitality, and 3) Tikkun Olam - Repairing Our World. He has also been an international leader in strengthening the Reform Movement's presence and engagement in Israel, fighting for human rights across the planet, and demonstrating that Reform Judaism truly reaches people where they are – no prejudging, no expectation of how Judaism must be practiced or who is Jewish. He is a visionary Rabbi, leader, and person who leads by his thoughtful and deliberate actions along with his heartfelt, inspiring, engaging, and embracing words.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

My first opportunity to experience Rabbi Jacobs' leadership was during the summer of 2014, when our son Josh's Crane Lake Camp trip to Israel began days before Israel's "Summer of Conflict." The URJ immediately evaluated the situation, determined it was safe to keep our teens in Israel, increased communications with families, continually reevaluated and rerouted thousands of teens, and reduced the anxiety of

thousands of Jewish parents. It was a tough period, especially when family and friends tried to comfort us with words such as, "Tell us that Josh is home or coming home early," unintentionally renewing our anguish. Should we be looking at options to bring Josh home early?

We continued to believe via direct communication with Josh and the URJ-led program that our teens were in safe Israeli locations and we felt the decision to keep the programs running was the right one. But we were still nervous and anxious. Then we learned that Rabbi Jacobs had changed his plans so that he could be with our kids in Israel for one of the early *Shabbatot* during the period of conflict. The message his visit and its timing sent to our teens and its impact on parents and families back home was profound.

How Does Rabbi Jacobs' Visit Reflect on Rabbi Todd?

Once again, Rabbi Jacobs has prioritized his busy schedule - this time to recognize the extraordinary leader that Rabbi Todd has become and how he is viewed by the national leadership of the Reform Movement. Like Rabbi Jacobs, Rabbi Todd's rabbinate is framed by the actions of his heart as much as by the words of his mouth.

Please join our TBS community on Friday evening and Saturday morning of this special weekend as we welcome Rabbi Jacobs to TBS to celebrate Rabbi Todd and the blessing that is the Markley Family.

From strength to strength!

L'Shalom,

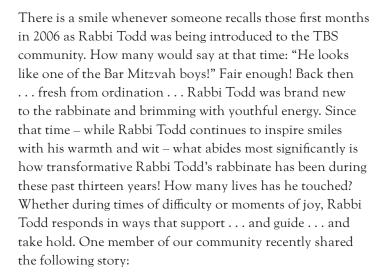
Jeff



From Our Clergy

Celebrating Rabbi Todd's "Bar Mitzvah"

By Rabbi Jay Perlman



About two years ago, I was attending a "Kehillah Kids" Friday night service with my family, including my father. We were also observing my mother's vahrzeit. I had convinced my father to attend services with us at TBS instead of going to his home synagogue so that we could say Kaddish together. Partway through the service, I realized that Kaddish was not part of the kids' service. I asked a teacher if there was another service happening that night that my father and I could stay for/move to so that we would be able to say Kaddish. She said she would ask Rabbi Todd and let me know. As soon as services were over, Rabbi Todd made his way over to me, brought my dad and me into the Chesed Room and offered a private Kaddish that we were able to say together. He also invited us to share a special memory of my mother and listened as we shared. I have felt an important part of the community and a special connection to TBS, and Rabbi Todd, ever since.

To know Rabbi Todd's heart is to know that this is both who he is and how he is. Every day. With each of us. Unconditionally.

Rabbi Todd is an inspiration! He brings Torah "to life"



with his exceptional teaching. He invites us into moments of

heartfelt prayer with his desire to make us feel spiritually at home in our Sanctuary. His insight is deep, inviting us to reflect and learn and grow. His sense of humor is brilliant, with his joyful laughter filling a room! His creative spirit is legendary, sparking – among other examples – a decade of 'how-did-he-come-up-with-that?!' musical Purim productions. His acumen for organizational development is exceptional as he has helped us to create a true covenantal community for the 21st century. His leadership motivates positive change not only at TBS but also at the Rashi School, at URJ Eisner Camp, and in our Needham community. His visionary understanding of how to make Judaism engaging for children and families enabled him to lead a Jewish education change process that led to the creation of our Mayim program, a program that is motivating change in hundreds of congregations across the country!

No matter where you find Rabbi Todd – in a class, on the bima, in his study, at the meeting table, under the chuppah, walking in the TBS Community Court, at the Rashi School, in Needham, on the quad at Eisner, behind his computer, behind his drum set, at a Phish concert, or at home – Rabbi Todd is always the same: a deeply beloved and outstanding leader, teacher, dad, life-partner, and friend! A mensch in the truest sense of the word!

How blessed I feel to call him my partner and friend!

How blessed, indeed, we all are!

May Highlights

1

Needham Community Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Memorial Day Service

Wednesday evening May 1, 7:30 PM, at TBS in the Sanctuary

Join with our friends from the Temple Aliyah community as we gather for our annual Needham Community *Yom HaShoah* Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration. Through prayer, poetry, and music we will reflect upon this darkest of times and honor the memories of the six million. Light refreshments will be served following our service.



3

Rabbi Todd's Bar Mitzvah Weekend

Simchat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Rick Jacobs Friday, May 3, 7:15 PM in the Sanctuary

Join us for the kickoff to Rabbi Todd's *Bar Mitzvah* Weekend as we welcome *Shabbat*, as well as Union for Reform Judaism President, Rabbi Rick Jacobs. Our *Simchat Shabbat* service will be filled with celebration, joy, and song. It promises to be a wonderful evening!

4

Rabbi Todd's Bar Mitzvah Weekend Torah Study Saturday, May 4, 9:00-10:00 AM at First Parish Unitarian Universalist

In celebration of Rabbi Todd's "Bar Mitzvah" at TBS, our Shabbat morning Torah study will be led by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism. Torah study will be preceded by a lay-led morning minyan service from 8:30 - 9:00 AM.

L'CHAIM! A Toast to the Markley Family Saturday, May 4, 6:00 PM

This year's *L'Chaim!* event will be a celebration of 13 years of Rabbi Todd and the Markley Family at Temple Beth Shalom! *L'Chaim!* will feature a joyful reception and program, dinner stations, dancing, and a special performance by the Tufts Beelzebubs A Capella Group. As well, the celebration will include a silent auction, mystery balloons, and The Grande Raffle. The proceeds will benefit cornerstone programs of our congregation: education and engagement, supporting adult learning experiences, the



Children's Center, Mayim, and Etzim teen programs. You will not want to miss this event! It is going to be the greatest gala in the galaxy!

Get your tickets and more information at www.tbslchaim.org.

4

Rabbi Todd NEEDS YOUR HELP to Complete His Mitzvah Projects!

Join any or many of these Social Action oriented activities to celebrate Rabbi Todd's Bar Mitzvah! There are projects for everybody including families, kids of all ages, and adults! Visit TBSLCHAIM.ORG (Mitzvah Project Tab) for details, age requirements, contact info and to sign up!



- Saturday, May 4, 11:00 AM 12:30 PM: Cleanup Hike to Help Keep Needham Town Forest Beautiful!
- Sunday, May 5, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon: Annual *Project Bread Walk for Hunger* with New Location Option: Needham's Own Cutler Park!

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5

May Highlights

5



11

- Sunday, May 5, 9:00 11:00 AM: People Who Sew and Non-Sewers Welcome to Join TBS Sisterhood "Days for Girls" Project!
- Sunday, May 5, 9:00 11:00 AM: New and Experienced Knitters Welcome to Join the TBS Knitting Mayens to Create Hats for Israeli Soldiers!
- Sunday, May 5, 1:30 3:30 PM: Volunteer at the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory!
- Sunday, May 11, 1:00 3:30 PM: Volunteer at the Greater Boston Food Bank!

TBS is also running the following collections in honor of Rabbi Todd's Bar Mitzvah. Thank you for your generous support!

- Pajama Drive! Leave donations at TBS by May 5.
- Food Drive to Benefit JF&CS Family Table (Drop donations at TBS by May 5, or bring to the Cutler Park Walk for Hunger on May 5.)
- The Children's Book Drive, to benefit the students at the Mozart Elementary School, has officially ended, but donations may still be made by contacting Nancy Krieger (npkmk1@gmail.com).

16

Sisterhood Donor Dinner

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 PM at TBS

Please join Sisterhood at our annual Donor Dinner. This fun, festive event features a catered dinner and a great time to catch up with the women of TBS.





17

New Member Shabbat

Friday, May 17 - Services begin at 7:15 PM in the Sanctuary

Welcome to the Temple Beth Shalom Community! If you joined in this calendar year, we are extending a special invitation to you to join fellow congregants for Shabbat services. As one of our newest members, you will be called to the bima during the service to receive a special blessing. Stay after services for an oneg and to enjoy a concert by BANOT!

To RSVP or for questions, email: Sarah Mesnik or Robyn Glazier (member_relations@tbsneedham.org)

Join Us for a Special Shabbat with the Musical Group, BANOT

Friday, May 17, 7:15 PM Shabbat service, and 9:00 PM concert



TBS is excited to announce that we'll be hosting BANOT, a spectacular group of Israeli singers and musicians (banotmusic.com/about). BANOT will participate in the *Shabbat* service, which will start at 7:15 PM (rather than the traditional 6:15 PM for the third Friday of the month). After a special *oneg*, the group will give a one-hour concert starting at 9:00 PM. Mark your calendar for what promises to be an exceptional experience! Read more about BANOT elsewhere in this issue.

Questions? Contact: Paul Elias (paulpad@bellsouth.net)



May Highlights

19

Author Liz Fox Discusses Her Book

We Are Going to Be Lucky: A WWII Love Story in Letters Sunday morning, May 19, 9:30 AM in the Community Hall

Join us for an illuminating presentation by author Liz Fox! We Are Going to Be Lucky tells the story of a young couple in love during World War II, and the difficulties they faced both at war and on the home front. Ms. Fox has served on the National Board of Hadassah for more than 20 years and has a BA in history from City College of New York. She lives in Boulder, CO with her husband. She has three children and six grandchildren – including her son and daughter-in-law



(TBS community members David and Michelle Fox and their children, Leo and Aviva.) This promises to be a wonderfully inspirational morning! A light breakfast will be served.

RSVP by contacting Tiziana Getz (tgetz@tbsneedham.org or 781-444-0077).

19

Sisterhood's Spring Rummage Sale at TBS

Sunday, May 19: Drop-off Donations 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Rummage Sale 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Monday, May 20: Bag Sale 5:00 - 8:00 PM



It's that time again! Sisterhood needs your donations and your assistance as a volunteer. Clean your closets, garages, and attics, and bring your rummage to

TBS! Costume/better jewelry welcome.



The following items cannot be accepted: computers/monitors, broken/damaged items, and children's car seats. We need everyone's help to make this event successful. Many volunteers are needed Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon during the sale, and Monday evening after the bag sale.

To volunteer, please contact: Bonnie Littman (bonlitt@gmail.com, 781-449-8793)

21

TBS Garden Club: "Creative Feast: Edible Still Life for Buffet Entertaining"

Tuesday, May 21, 7:15 PM, at TBS

Liz Barbour will present an entertaining program as a working chef, author, and gardener. She combines instructing her audience about cooking with information about using herbs and edible flowers. She will demonstrate easy-to-use recipes from her cookbook, *Beautifully Delicious*, Cooking with Herbs and Edible Flowers. Check out her website at www. thecreativefeast.com. Please join us!

Questions? Contact: Carol Gershman (gardenclub@tbsneedham.org, 781-444-3868)



Save the Date

June 10

The Jews of Iraq: What Do You Know about Them?

Monday, June 10, 7:30PM, in the Community Hall

The Adult Learning Committee invites you to watch a unique audio-visual presentation by Carol Isaacs, a London musician and cartoonist. Ms. Isaacs will present a portion of her graphic memoir, "The Wolf of Baghdad," capturing her family's recollections of their lost homeland. The video is accompanied by the stirring sounds of Judeo-Arabic music. Following this, she will engage in a discussion and Q and A with Dr. Yitzhak Bakal, who grew up in Baghdad.



Questions? Contact: Peter Mesnik (peter@mesnik.com)
Co-sponsored by The Consulate General of Israel to New England

June 12

Suitcase Stories

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 PM, in the Sanctuary

Join TBS Tzedek as we present "Suitcase Stories," co-sponsored with several organizations including

the Congregational Church of Needham, the Needham Immigration Task Force, the Needham Human Rights Commission, and the League of Women Voters of Needham. Honor the contributions of refugees and immigrants through the timeless art of live storytelling.

REFIGERATION OF THE STORIES STORIES

Suitcase Stories is a traveling performance series and online social media campaign that features foreign and U.S.- born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories throughout New England.

Check TBS Website and TBS This Week for registration information.

June **23**

TBS Children's Center Touch A Truck

Sunday, June 23, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Join us for a fun morning of kid-friendly activities, snacks from local vendors, and most importantly, come climb, touch and explore TRUCKS! There will be a silent auction with fun goodies and local experiences to help support TBS Children's Center. This event is free for all to attend!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael Navisky and Amy Booxbaum and Aliyah (7) and Jonah (3) Melissa Stone and Alexander Whitnall and Theodore (not yet 1) Aaron and Stephanie Sherman and Xander (2) Kerry and John Zwierzko and Beckett (1) Joshua Fishbein and Jessica Smith and William (10) and Samuel (9) Evan and Amy Gold and Isla (3) and Ruby (1) Ben Paradise and Emily Archibald and Henry (6) and Walter (3)

For the most current and complete event notices, please see the TBS calendar (http://tbsneedham.org/calendar), the website, and the weekly email. Planning an event? Submit it here: https://tbsneedham.org/submit

BANOT: Interpreting Traditional Jewish and Modern Israeli Music

By Myrna Bloch

"Their voices blend together in lush, sophisticated harmony, creating arrangements of Israeli songs that are so elegant that they take your breath away." Cantor Jodi Sufrin of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley is talking about BANOT.

When Cindi and Paul Elias first saw BANOT three years ago, they were impressed with the energy they gave to Judaic music and mesmerized by their talent. It became their dream to bring them to TBS, and now they have achieved that goal.

BANOT has performed all over the country, and we are honored to bring them to TBS to share their beautiful music. The group will participate in the Shabbat service on Friday, May 17(7:15 PM), and then, after a special *oneg*, will give a one-hour concert starting at 9:00 PM. For a preview of this wonderful group, check out their website, www.banotmusic. com.

BANOT started as a project of four Israeli women writing and performing new arrangements for traditional Jewish songs and modern Israeli music. After graduating from Berklee College of Music, they decided that since they all knew how to arrange music and they all loved playing and making music together, why shouldn't they be doing it together?

The group has now expanded to six members: Yonit Spiegelman, bassist, is a producer, composer, and vocalist. Guitarist Mikhal Weiner is a composer, singer-songwriter and vocalist. Ella Joy Meir is a singer-songwriter, pianist, composer and sound designer. Tali Rubinstein brings her talent as a recorder player, singer, and composer. Flutist Shir Zehavy is a singer-songwriter and vocalist. And, Latin Grammy nominee, Marian Gomez Villota, the newest member, works on producing, mixing in the studio, and live engineering.

BANOT aims to give their audience a new way to experience the music of our Jewish heritage with interpretations derived from the worlds of jazz, R&B, classical, and folk. They perform traditional Jewish music and modern Israeli music with exciting new arrangements. BANOT means 'girls' and it also means 'daughters.' Their songs come from the traditions they grew up with as *banot*, and as daughters of this Jewish world. Also, they're a girl band, a Jewish girl band!

Since BANOT's music appeals to all ages, this is a great opportunity for a family evening. BANOT's version of *Hashkivenu*, *Sim Shalom*, and *Do Di Li* will stir emotions, and give fresh visions of *Shabbat*. Please mark your calendars to join us for the service and concert at 7:30 PM on May 17. It promises to be an exceptional experience.



The Authors Among Us

Robert Brooks

As a clinical psychologist I feel grateful to have had the opportunity to author or co-author 17 books, together with my other writings. The books have been written for diverse audiences, including health care and mental health profes-



sionals, educators, financial advisors, and the lay public. I also enjoyed writing a sex education book for young children. My early publications were prompted by my desire to write articles that I could use in seminars I taught for staff and trainees at McLean Hospital. During the past 20 years I have focused on the theme of nurturing resilience across the lifespan and its application in clinical work, parenting, schools, and the workplace. My most recent book arose from a friendship I developed with a minister in Houston. We co-edited *Reflections on Mortality: Insights Into Meaningful Living*. Our own Rabbi Sonsino contributed a wonderful chapter to the book. I'm currently co-authoring a follow-up book to one I wrote with the head of a financial advisors institute. The experience of writing has proven to be very gratifying for me.

Abigail Harmon

After a 10-year stint as a copywriter in advertising, I switched back to the nonprofit world. I have been a nonprofit consultant for 15 years, specializing in fundraising and executive search, and writing a blog on topics ranging from



development to governance and strategic planning to staffing (www.merskyjaffe.com). I have also co-authored two books: Successful Synagogue Fundraising Today (Jewish Lights Publishing) and How You Can Engage New Board Members.

Jim Hirsch

The most important thing about being a writer is . . . to write. I spent twelve years writing for the *New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. I'm currently writing my tenth nonfiction book, and I'm inspired by two things - to write a great story that will be worth reading 100 years from now, and



to write the perfect sentence. Neither is easy. Writing is all about having a very long conversation with yourself: What is this story actually about? Where do I get the information? How do the pieces fit together? Eventually, you answer all the questions, or you find another job. When I was in journalism school, a professor was telling us all the bad things about being a writer: the pressure is intense, nobody likes you, you

have no personal time, and the pay is lousy. A student asked, "Then why do you do it?" He thought for a moment, and said, "You have to love the pain." I think that's why they run marathons as well. The journey may be agonizing, but it's the agony of the journey that makes crossing the finish line - or seeing your name on an article or a blog or a book - so rewarding.

CJ Kaplan

Here's a dirty little secret. If praise could pay the mortgage, most writers would work for free. When someone tells me that my writing made them laugh or cry or scream or just feel alive, no further



remuneration is necessary. At an early age, I learned that there is an incredible rush in being able to move people with words. The papers that earned high marks from teachers, the articles that triggered angry responses from readers and the essays that drew cheers from audiences all infused me with an electrical charge strong enough to light a small city. And like any endorphin junkie, I'm always searching for that next high. It's funny, there are many people who are wealthier than I am but there are very few who are luckier. After all, every day I get paid to do something I would have been doing anyway. For nothing! But hey, let's keep that dirty little secret just between us, okay?

Mark Maremont

I am a Senior Editor at the Wall Street Journal. I have worked at the WSJ for 21 years. Before that I worked for Business-Week in NY, London and Boston. I was a late-blooming journalist. I wasn't on the college newspaper, but came to it in my 20s and got my start at Columbia Journalism School. These days, I mostly



do investigative reporting, specializing in business and politics. I have been fortunate enough to win some major prizes, including a Pulitzer in 2007. I wake up every day excited to do my job because it is often fascinating and involves a lot of detective work. I love nothing better than finding a great source or uncovering key documents that shed some light on dark corners. My work also can help spur change and reform – my little contribution to repairing the world. In the past decade I've written about Mitt Romney's taxes, Donald Trump's ties to some dodgy businesses, and helped expose several billion-dollar business scams. I also wrote about how Xylitol in chewing gum is killing and sickening dogs.

More... Authors Among Us

Doug Most

My first paying job as a scrawny teenager? Interviewing my friends and writing about high school culture for *The Barrington Times* for \$25 per article. Journalism! I was hooked. When I think about my career across five newspapers, one magazine, two books, and one



university, the one constant has been my search for great stories to tell. In Washington, it was covering the lives of minor league baseball players. In South Carolina, it was tracking a politician's unethical trip to Bermuda. In New Jersey, it was following a family for a year as they coped with the unthinkable loss of a child or investigating two teenagers charged with an unimaginable crime. In Boston, it was sitting in a hospital with a new mom who lost all four limbs – but miraculously didn't lose her life to infection – or it was digging through archives to tell the story of America's oldest subway. Touching readers, making them laugh or cry or just making them think, that's what drives me to this day. Know any good stories?

Sharon Salinger

One day in Junior High School typing class, I grew bored of the lazy brown dog and quick red fox and started to riff freestyle, producing "The Butterfly Net," the first poem that seemed to fall out of the air and onto my page in a way that surprised and delighted me. It



was my first published work. I had earlier fallen in love with *Poetry for Pleasure*, edited by Louis Untermeyer, discovered on my grandparents' bookshelf, and the poets collected there have been my enduring teachers. I have supported myself by fiction and textbooks, but poetry is what pulls me - words and the ways you can play with them. The most thrilling aspect for me is that Wow! moment that lights up the neurons when the poem hits the soul. I strive for that moment in every poem. My new collection, *Love Letters, an Aleph Bet*, inspired by the mystical power of the Hebrew letters, comes out this summer. It contains many poems that I have been blessed to share here in Shabbat morning worship services.

Jerome Schultz

My writing career started in 7th grade, when my teacher praised one of my poems and encouraged me to submit it for publication in an anthology. Little did I know that she told that to every kid. When the anthology arrived, I was shocked to see that it



was filled with poems and short essays written by just about everyone in the class. Despite this harsh introduction to the publishing business I kept writing, and when I was in graduate school my first professional article was accepted into a peer-reviewed journal. This spurred me on to my current career. I wrote many articles about children with special needs, and in 2011 I published a book about the impact of stress on cognition, learning, and behavior in kids with LD and ADHD. I was deeply gratified to hear from many parents who told me they felt they were reading about their own child. I continue to write articles for professional journals and websites for parents and teachers of children with special needs, as well as poetry to honor, memorialize, entertain, and educate people in my life. My last piece, on stress, my talented and musical grandson Eli turned into a rap video that I use to train teachers.

Sabra Sherry

I've been a self-employed writer for more than twenty years, but I'm most passionate about the writing I've been doing since 2009, when I founded my personal history business, Legacies That Last. I interview people and write about their family and personal history, values, and life lessons and



then collaborate with my team to create heirloom-quality books. My interest in legacy work was sparked by helping my terminally ill mother write an ethical will (legacy letter) and interviewing her about her life. I learned things about her I'd never known, she felt comforted that her stories would live on, and her lessons have guided my children in ways I couldn't have imagined. I wanted to help other families create lasting legacies, and I'm inspired by the amazing stories, wisdom, and feedback my clients have shared. "I have peace of mind because my stories, photos, and important documents are preserved." "I relived memories of my experiences and discovered what a wonderful life I've lived." "We learned so much about my dad we never knew." With testimonials like these, it's no wonder I love my work!

Deena Mesnick Siegel

I have been in a writing group for 19 years. We met in a Memoir Writing class and six of us, aged 28 to 78 years old, wanted to continue after the course ended. We began meeting biweekly in January 2000. Sadly, our eldest member passed away ten years later at the age of 88. We have traveled



many roads together without leaving the same dining room table where we still meet, including one member's loss of her child to suicide; writing helped her to process that grief. We have raised children, survived illnesses, changed directions, gained and lost pounds and jobs, become grandparents, buried parents, moved, retired, and all have remained married to the same husbands. We take pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and pour out our hearts. We reflect on internal and external events. Some of us have published our work in notable venues, others write just for ourselves and one another. We do not socialize outside of our meetings, but know one another's heads and hearts in deeply intimate ways because that's what we write about.

Jenny Small

As a writer and scholar, my main sources of motivation have been my Jewish identity and the question of how young people from different religious and non-religious backgrounds conceive of themselves, their beliefs, and their place in society. I have published two books about college students' religious



identity, spiritual development, and interfaith dialogue. The first, *Understanding College Students' Spiritual Identities:*Different Faiths, Varied Worldviews, came out in 2011 and was based on my dissertation research with Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and atheist college students. For the second, Making Meaning: Embracing Spirituality, Faith, Religion, and Life Purpose in Student Affairs, which came out in 2015, I brought together and led a team to analyze how these topics had become more prevalent and acceptable in higher education. I have also written a couple dozen journal articles and chapters in edited books. I remain motivated by my desire to improve the world through building support for college students' varied religious and non-religious identities and the ways students (and all of us) can better understand those who differ from us.

Lois Sockol

I've authored three books in my short 85 years. The first, *True Grid*, provides a system for those who teach students having difficulty with initial decoding skills. I was driven by the need to offer this successful method, to help enable the unlocking of symbols into words, to



release the power of reading. Although a fiction, *The Promise* is torn from the tragic events of my niece Amy's murder. By telling Amy's story, *The Promise* inflames the effervescent light of my niece. The book is dedicated with admiration and love to my sister, Ellen Zeltserman, in the hope that it might offer some measure of healing. *Bits and Pieces* offers snapshots of my life from childhood to now. Not a linear memoir but scattered scenes which I hope enable my progeny to glimpse behind the masks of mother and grandmother and see a

more complete me. Or possibly, I just needed to reaffirm who I am and turn the fleeting moments into more lasting memories. In addition, I have written several short stories, only one of which made it into publication, in a Jewish Literary Journal published in South Africa. So why do I write? Unanswered questions make me powerless to stop.

Rabbi Rifat Sonsino

In my professional career as a congregational Rabbi as well as an academic of Judaica, I have had to write many sermons, articles, blogs, and books. I got the bug from my father, who was a well-respected Jewish profession-



al in Istanbul, Turkey, and was in demand all the time as a speaker, mostly, on Hebrew poetry and the Jewish calendar. I gave my first lecture on the prophets at the Orthodox synagogue in Istanbul when I was a teenager, and discovered that I am able to express complicated issues in clear language. The Rabbinate gave me an opportunity to do that on a regular basis. I have published ten books and numerous articles in popular and scholarly venues, dealing with a variety of Jewish theological and social issues of our time. I also began to publish my blog (SONSINO'S BLOG, rsonsino.blogspot.com), reaching now more than 370,000 readers around the world.

Amy Willis

My writing takes two forms. I write personal essays and articles when inspiration strikes, and I also work with clients as a consultant specializing in grant proposals, business proposals and reports. On the personal side, my favorite pieces include an article I wrote



about feminism, which was published on Kveller.com after the 2016 election; a profile of a police chief from Newtown, Connecticut published in the Brandeis Magazine; and an essay for a book titled Here in the Middle – Stories of Love, Loss, and Connection from the Ones Sandwiched in Between. I also enjoyed writing and editing Stories from the Heart: Temple Beth Shalom's Life Wisdom Project. I love my consulting business because with each new client I have the opportunity to quickly learn a great deal about a new topic. For example, I recently wrote a grant proposal for a non-profit organization that supports commercial fishermen and their families. After several intense weeks of research and writing, I now consider myself an expert on safety training for fishermen! Over the years I have obtained grant funding to benefit disadvantaged youth in Boston, adults and infants struggling with addiction, and low-income seniors. Helping those in need is extremely gratifying.

Around TBS

Thank You!

We are so grateful to our wonderful TBS family for sponsoring our Dancing with the Needham Stars adventure. We were so proud to represent the



community that gives to us in so many ways, each and every single day! Thank you!

Carol Bolton Kappel and Jonathan Kappel

Be Kind to Our TBS Neighbors

When parking on neighboring streets, please be respectful of our neighbors by not walking through their yards. These are private property. Please use the sidewalks to access the building. Thank you for your cooperation!

New in the TBS Library

Books that have been showcased at recent TBS programs that are now available in the Library:

- Up, Up, and Oy Vey: How Jewish History, Culture, and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superhero by Simcha Weinstein
- The Gefilte Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods by Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alperin
- The Wartime Sisters by Lynda Cohen Loigman
- The Secret of Clouds by Alyson Richman

Other recent additions to our collection include:

- Bubbe and Me in the Kitchen: A Kosher Cookbook of Beloved Recipes and Modern Twists by Miri Rotkovitz
- Jews and Genes: The Genetic Future in Contemporary Jewish Thought edited by Elliot Dorff and Laurie Zoloth
- Jerusalem and Washington: A Life in Politics and Diplomacy by Zalman Shoval
- The Land of Truth: Talmud Tales, Timeless Teachings by Jeffrey Rubenstein
- · Promised Land: A Novel of Israel by Martin Fletcher
- What We Talk About When We Talk about Hebrew (And What It Means to Americans) edited by Naomi Sokoloff and Nancy Berg

Interested in a Book Club?

We are currently exploring interest in starting a book club, sponsored by the TBS Library Committee. If you are interested, please send an email to library@tbsneedham. org with your name, book subject interests, and preferred meeting times (frequency [monthly or quarterly] and time of day [mornings, afternoons, or evenings]). Feel free to include any additional comments or suggestions!

Solar Panels at TBS

By Jane Evans for the Shomrei Adamah and Building Committees

The TBS Solar Panel Array is now online! How did this come to pass? Back in May 2018, the Jewish Climate Action Network (JCAN) held a forum called "Solar for Synagogues." Several TBS members from the Building and Shomrei Adamah Committees attended and heard from congregations that had already gone solar, including our neighbors at Temple Aliyah. The forum laid out the steps in the process, and vendors were there to answer questions. Most importantly, we learned that a solar array could be financed through something called a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with no money down.

After that meeting, members Loren
Shapiro, Joel Golden, and Marc Friedman swung into action.
Several solar vendors were invited to TBS to look at our roofs and submit proposals. It was complicated! We



had a multi-level roof, and we didn't know whether either roof area (Simon Hall or new addition) could bear the weight of solar panels. We did know that the old roof over Simon Hall was in need of replacement, and that we could fit far more panels if we included that area.

Several months of visits, meetings, and negotiations followed. Loren and Joel lost track of how many times they climbed up to the roof to show people around. 621 Energy, LLC of Concord was eventually chosen as our vendor. We got great news from the experts - the roofs could support

the panels without further structural work! Member and attorney Bruce Tribush came on to work out the terms of the PPA.

In July 2018, a final proposal was ready and the Board agreed to finance immediate replacement of the old Simon Hall roof and to go ahead with solar panel installation after that. Work began in November, and installation was completed by mid-December. The panels came online in January. Many thanks to the TBS volunteers who worked hard to make this happen!

We now have a solar array rated at 115.83 KW peak power. Estimates are that we will produce about 30% of the electrical needs of the building, with a savings of around \$20,000 per year. During February 2019, our first full month, we generated 20% of our electricity from solar! To date, we have saved over 15,000 pounds of CO2 emissions, which is the equivalent of 394 trees. 621 Energy has set up a website where we can track the output of our solar panels. Check it out any time to see how much we're producing at tiny.cc/tbssolar.

A Warm Note of Thanks from Israel

By Margie Glou

Our Temple Beth Shalom "Knitting Mavens" group has been making meaningful hand-knit gifts for several years. When we began, we made "Caring Wraps" for those in our community who were experiencing illness. As well, we made beautiful baby blankets for the newborns in our congregation. In 2013, we added a new and special project to our creativity: making hats for soldiers serving in the Israeli Defense Forces. We did so through an international project called "Hats for Israeli Soldiers." The program is coordinated by a woman living in Israel named Channah Koppel. This project has been wonderfully successful over the past seven years. During this time, Rabbi Jay and the many travelers from TBS have delivered over 450 hats to Channah!

Channah's son had been a paratrooper in the IDF and knew that conditions get very cold in the winter in Israel - especially in the north. As she explains, "The hats provide both physical warmth and emotional support, and we feel good knowing that somewhere tonight, a soldier doing guard duty in the cold will be wearing one of our warm, hand-knitted hats, made with love."

From our first "Knitting Mavens" meeting in 2013, our talented TBS knitters have displayed an overwhelming dedication to this project. They consistently continue to share their enthusiasm, compassion, and tremendously gifted hands. In December 2018, Rabbi Jay and Emily led our community's most recent trip to Israel. Once again, they brought dozens of hand-knit caps for soldiers. Soon after they returned, the Temple received the following heartwarming letter:

Hi. One cold morning I saw my son, who is a soldier in the IDF, wearing a nice woolen cap. When I asked him about it, he showed me the inscription inside the cap, saying the cap was knitted and donated by the Temple Beth Shalom (Needham) congregation. I was very touched, as was he, as are all of us here in Israel. So I would just like to say "THANK YOU" to all of you. Please convey our deep appreciation to all the people involved in this endeavor.

Sincerely, Rachel

The inscription Rachel was referring to – knit into each cap that we make – says in Hebrew, "This was knit for you with warmth and with love from your friends at Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, MA USA!"



Receiving this note reminded us of the incredible opportunity that we have to make a difference in the lives of these young people serving in Israel. What a gift and a blessing to us all!

If you are interested in being part of our TBS "Knitting Maven" group and in helping us to reach our goals for our next TBS trip to Israel in 2020 (200 hats (the pattern is easy: K2, P2)), please contact Margie Glou (mglou@comcast.net) or Bobbi Niss (bobbiniss@yahoo.com).

Simplicity Parenting and Teaching

By Ellen Dietrick

Today's children are living amidst a barrage of mental, physical, and digital clutter, making navigating the world more challenging than it was during our childhoods. Internationally renowned Kim John Payne, author of *Simplicity Parenting*, visited the Children's Center parents and faculty to help us focus on simplifying our children's homes and classrooms.

Payne writes, "The pace of our daily lives is increasingly misaligned with the pace of childhood." In his work with TBS families, Payne focused on simplifying our homes and family lives. Amid today's pressures, how do we avoid overscheduling, reduce clutter, and manage screen time? How do we lessen the feeling of having too much stuff? How do we build resilience in our children? Parents, as well as teachers, learned about the power of boredom in the development of young children.

At the Children's Center, Payne's time with the TBSCC faculty focused on the "simplicity classroom" and inspired us with ideas that we have been able to take straight to our classrooms. As a result, you may have noticed some subtle changes designed to bring alignment to the lives of our children. Children's Center faculty focused on simplifying four areas of our children's school day: the rhythm of the day, the classroom environment, scheduling, and information.

Although we already have a fairly simple structure, we considered how to make it even more streamlined. We looked at not just the importance of visual aesthetics, but also the scents the children smell, the sounds they hear, and the quality of the lights in our spaces. We studied new ways of reducing the quantity of words we use with and around children in order to give them time to think. We implemented these strategies over the past few months, and are pleased to highlight some of these ideas so you can follow along on our journey.

Simplicity at TBS

The Rhythm of Shabbat Shemesh Pre-K Class

Every Friday Shemesh comes together to celebrate Shabbat. Fridays have a rhythm that has become predictable in our classroom. As the teachers begin to readjust the tables, the children immediately know that it is time for Shabbat and step into action to help set up. They go get the Shabbat candles and kiddush cup. They begin moving chairs around so that everyone has a seat.



Rhythms establish a foundation for cooperation. As Payne explains in his book, rhythms are times that are both bonding and connecting. If a child has had a hectic morning at home or a conflict at school, they can always rely on our Shabbat together as a calm and peaceful time to share and be together. During the blessings, the children join hands forming a chain around the table.

Simplicity Transitions Keshet 1-2 Year Old Class

After our teachers' learning day with Payne, we used his ideas to consider how we can make our classroom simpler using fewer materials. For example, we removed several books and added some larger books for group reading. This has been a real hit, and the kids definitely gravitate more to books now that there are fewer overwhelming options.













We saw another way to simplify our classroom: by modifying transitions. After our outside time we would typically come in as a group, making it a chaotic transition as the children take off coats, wash hands, and then eat lunch all at once. In thinking about how to make that routine more meaningful and bring a sense of calm, we decided to try small groups. We bring two to three children inside at a time allowing five to ten minutes in between. With this time a teacher settles the first group, then helps with the second while the first group is already eating lunch. This has proved to be a huge help, and allows everyone to enter lunchtime much more relaxed.

Simplicity Classroom - More Creativity Leads to Better Problem Solving Adamah 3-4 Year Old Class

We have always been moved by the idea that when it comes to toys and classroom materials, "less is more." Payne explains, "As you decrease the quantity of your child's toys and clutter, you increase their attention and their capacity for deep play." So we have taken out some of the traditional classroom toys and replaced them with big cardboard boxes and a basket of various fabrics and fasteners. The children have become more interested in the wooden blocks, and each day these simpler items inspire creative ideas in the children. The fabrics have become swaddles for babies, superhero capes, costumes for royalty, party decorations, and so much more. A big box is a house, a tunnel, a bridge, and a quiet space for time alone or with just one other friend.

Payne goes on to explain that if you "give a child less complexity, they become more interested, and this cultivates true powers of attention." We see the beginnings of this in the classroom, as children have begun to sustain their play with these materials for longer periods of time. He also teaches that the deeper the children get creatively, the better problem solvers they become. Being a good problem solver is an integral life skill that will lead to positive social interactions and stronger relationships. What could be better than that?















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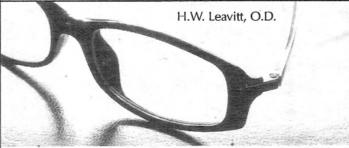
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