

When I reminisce about my childhood, I think of TBI.

I had birthday parties here, went to Sunday school and Hebrew school here, and had my bat mitzvah here. I made friends, learned about my commitment to Judaism, and learned what it means to be Jewish on my terms. To me, Judaism has never been purely religious—it's about being a part of a community and having a spiritual connection to G-d.

When I think of my Jewish community, I think of TBI.

I've always loved being a part of such a warm and inviting community. We come together for baby namings, bat and bar mitzvahs, confirmations, and other Jewish festivities. We celebrate holidays, dance on Simchas Torah, attend weekly Shabbat services, dress up for Purim, and so much more.

When I think of my relationship with G-d, I think of TBI.

Although I've always believed in G-d, TBI has helped form my relationship with G-d. I remember my Sunday school teachers asking my peers and I questions about our beliefs in G-d. And everyone had different answers. We had intelligent and interesting conversations about how G-d plays a role in our lives. At TBI, leadership and educators have always been open to listening to students.

When I think of Judaism, I think of TBI.

TBI will always be my first Jewish home. Judaism, to me, is not only about the study of Torah and G-d, but also mitzvot, tikkun olam, and how to treat others. From a young age, I learned the importance of being kind to strangers, friends, and family alike through TBI and my family. I remember first hearing the words, "Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World" at TBI and took this phrase to heart. I volunteered in high school, college, and currently volunteer at a local animal shelter—TBI helped teach me the importance of giving back to your community.

I know TBI will continue to educate and help raise generations of Jewish children for another 100 years, and I look forward to raising my child at TBI, too. Thank you and Shabbat Shalom.