Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, March 1**
  - 5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
  - 6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat
  - March Birthday Blessings

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, March 2 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Torah Portion “Vayakhel”
  - Shabbat Shekalim

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, March 8**
  - 6:00 P.M. – Shalom Shabbat
  - 7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, March 9 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Bar Mitzvah of Brayden Tratt, son of Laurie Sporn and Arlyn Tratt
  - Torah Portion “Pekudei”
  - Shabbat Zachor

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, March 15**
  - 5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
  - 6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat
  - Sponsored by Eileen and Bruce Rosenberg and Margaret and Gordon Mallett

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, March 16 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Bat Mitzvah of Ava Rosenberg, daughter of Julie and Eric Rosenberg
  - Torah Portion “Vayikra”
  - Shabbat Zachor

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, March 22**
  - 7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, March 23 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Torah Portion “Tzav”

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, March 29**
  - 5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
  - 6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, March 30 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Torah Portion “Sh’mini”
  - Shabbat Parah

**SHABBAT**
- **Friday Evening, April 5**
  - 5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
  - 6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**
- **Saturday Morning, April 6 at 10:30 A.M.**
  - Bar Mitzvah of Max Spector, son of Lisa and David Spector
  - Torah Portion “Tazria”
  - Shabbat HaChodesh – Rosh Chodesh Nisan

*Please note time

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**LIKRAT SHABBAT**

We would like to belatedly thank Ina Hill who made a donation for the Likrat Shabbat on February 1, 2019 in honor of February birthdays.

We would like to thank Noah Bronfeld, Laura Merens, Mark Fine, Danielle Perlin-Good, Linda Perlin, Eunice Burns, Andi Blain, Ione Novak, Barbara Seaver, Philip Klein, Arnie Oskin, and Jaime Hammond who made donations for the Likrat Shabbat on March 1, 2019 in honor of their March birthdays.

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Rabbi’s Column

*Ruach Hiddush is an organization of Rabbis and Cantors for Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel. It was founded by Rabbi Uri Regev, the former head of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and the former head of the Israel Religious Action Center. Membership includes rabbis from across a wide spectrum of the Jewish religious landscape and it is currently chaired by Rabbi Michael Chernick, and orthodox rabbi and Talmud professor from New York.*

*Ruach Hiddush has drafted a Vision Statement: Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State. As Israel looks towards its upcoming national elections (on April 9th) Ruach Hiddush hopes that this Vision Statement can serve as a map for the new Israeli government (whomever it turns out to be) to realize the promises of Israel’s Declaration of Independence.*

In order to capture the attention, and hopefully the imagination and commitment, of the soon to be elected government, *Ruach Hiddush* seeks to garner 10,000+ signatories to the Vision Statement. Hundreds of rabbis, cantors and lay people have already signed on. Now, I invite you to read the statement at the *Ruach Hiddush* website ([www.rrefei.org](http://www.rrefei.org)) and, if you agree, to sign it. I hope that we at TBI will do our part to try to convey to the leadership of Israel both our loyalty to and support of the Jewish State and our desire for the uplift of the "soul of the State."

To pique your curiosity, below is the preamble to the Vision Statement. I hope that you will join me in signing it.

**PREAMBLE: The following statement is issued by a diverse group of Jews in Israel and the Diaspora, all of whom greatly admire and appreciate the tremendous achievements of the State of Israel. Israel is a remarkably dynamic democracy and creative society. Since its inception, it has sought not only to provide an independent state to a People that has been deprived of sovereignty for almost 2,000 years, but also to fulfill the values expressed in its Declaration of Independence— a State rooted in the precepts of liberty, justice and peace as taught by our prophets, guaranteeing freedom and equal entitlements and responsibilities to all of its citizens.**

*We come together to express our commitment to work towards the fulfillment of the promise of religious freedom and equal treatment. While appreciating the efforts of Israel to provide religious freedom to all its residents, the goal of providing total religious freedom remains to be achieved. This is a critical challenge facing Israel both as a Jewish and as a democratic state. We, who are committed to Israel’s growing strength and vitality, as well as its bonds with world Jewry, hold that this challenge can no longer be left to politics alone, and we will do our utmost, in partnership between Israelis and world Jewry, to address this challenge and help make it a reality.*

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**Wednesday**

**March 20, 2019**

**HAPPY PURIM!**

Details for the TBI Purim Celebration inside!
IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV TO: Marjorie Getz and David Sheftel, on the engagement of their daughter Jenna Sheftel to Isaac Hacker

Doris Simon on the birth of her new great-grandson and Ardel and Richard Fogel on the birth of their new grandson: Bryce Judson Dulmage, son of Stacy and Jeff Dulmage.

Eudice Lorge on the birth of her new great-grandson and Susie and Michael Lorge on the birth of their new grandson and Alyssa and Howard Dryver on the birth of their new nephew and Wendy Fox and Jon Schneider on the birth of their new great-nephew: Solomon Ezra Shure, son of Ilana and Ralf Shure.

Eudice Lorge on the birth of her new great-grandson and Susie and Michael Lorge on the birth of their new grandson and Alyssa and Howard Dryver on the birth of their new nephew and Wendy Fox and Jon Schneider on the birth of their new great-nephew: Levi Shai Lipsett, son of Sari and Aaron Lipsett.

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein for being inducted into the Glencoe Hall of Fame.

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY: The following Temple members are recovering from recent illness: Grace Murphy. We wish her a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES: We note with sorrow the passing of Dr Morris Eisman, father of Larry Eisman. May his memory be a blessing.

We note with sorrow the passing of Janice Anderson, mother of Matthew Arden. May her memory be a blessing.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of PHYLLIS BLEADON

May her memory be a blessing.

MAZAL TOV – B'NAI MITZVAH!

Temple Beth Israel wishes mazel tov to Brayden Tratt on becoming Bar Mitzvah and being called to the Torah on March 9, 2019. Brayden, a 7th Grader at Old Orchard Jr High, is a bit of a renaissance man with his many interests. You can often find him in the kitchen baking sweets and cooking full meals. He is famous for his garlic chicken. He has even started his own blog with his baking adventures. He loves to act, play golf, and studying maps...need help getting somewhere? He is your man! Brayden loves to spend time with his family, especially his little cousins. This summer will be Brayden's 5th summer at Beber Camp, his 2nd home. His mitzvah project was to earn money for the Beber Camp Scholarship fund so that they can help any child go there. Brayden is really excited to have his Bar Mitzvah and celebrate with everyone!

Temple Beth Israel wishes mazel tov to Ava Rosenberg on becoming Bat Mitzvah and being called to the Torah on March 16, 2019. Ava is in 7th grade at Haven Middle School. Ava loves acting and performing and has been dancing she was 4 years old. She has been busy this year with bat mitzvah preparation, taking ballet, contemporary, and hip-hop dance classes, and participating in extracurricular activities at school. Ava also enjoys swimming, water skiing, and her beloved cat, Meow Meow (given name: Violet). Ava is collecting items for the homeless and will be assembling outreach kits for her Mitzvah project.

Temple Beth Israel wishes mazel tov to Max Spector on becoming Bar Mitzvah and being called to the Torah on April 6, 2019. Max is a seventh grader at Lincoln Hall School in Lincolnwood. He enjoys music, theatre, sports, and has a passion for collecting anything related to the Harry Potter series. Max has performed in many plays and shows. He played saxophone in his school band and is in his school's chorale and honor choir. He also enjoys playing on the soccer team and running. To share his love of music and singing, Max is volunteering in the Keshet buddy program choir for his mitzvah initiative. He is excited for his upcoming fourth summer at OSRUI. Max is looking forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah and celebrating with family, friends, and his TBI community. He wants to thank everyone at TBI who has helped him prepare for his special day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jon Schneider

I am writing this article after returning from a lovely weekend in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, home to the reform Jewish Camp known mostly as OSRUI, or as we nicknamed it this past weekend, Ice-RUI. As a child, I did not attend Jewish overnight camp, but my children attended and have fond memories (and continue making more memories) of their time at camp. But this past weekend wasn’t so much about being at camp, it was about being with our TBI friends. As hard as it can be to make the time to go away on a Friday afternoon and be gone until Sunday afternoon, TBI’s retreat is always worth the effort.

What happens at retreat? On the one hand, not a lot happens during such a short weekend. But on the other hand, so much happens for such a short weekend. The main thing is that young families, new members, “middle-aged” adults, couples, singles, children, friends, acquaintances, and TBI’ers of all stripes spend a couple of days, learning, eating, hanging out, singing, eating, praying, drinking, learning, eating, laughing, relaxing, and eating.

What makes the weekend so special? It is not the weather, that’s for sure. I think it is that for about 48 hours, we are mostly unplugged, we have limited duties; we have a change of setting; parents get a break from taking their children to their many activities; children get more time to hang out with each other; they get a bit more opportunity to do things on their own; adults get to hang out, not online, but with each other, meeting each other or really talking to each other often for the first time.

There are planned learning sessions and plenty of time to get to know each other, share a joke, and enjoy our humanity.

Each time I have attended retreat, I get to know a few people better than I had known before. And when we return, we look back on those times in Oconomowoc with fondness and when we see each other at TBI, we often laugh and share a smile. Connections are made and friendships created or enhanced.

The learning sessions are always enlightening, not just for the content of the lessons, but also for additional opportunities to hear new perspectives, to gain new respect for others’ ideas, their backgrounds, their way of thinking. It is often at retreat where we learn about where people grew up, how they grew up, how they see the world. For people without young children, it is a joy to get to meet some of the young people who might be a part of a skit we are putting on, to get to know the personalities of the next generation of TBI leaders.

Mark your calendars now for our next retreat the first weekend of December 2019, when we hope to avoid the ice! If you cannot attend retreat, you can get a little bit of the special feeling of retreat at TBI in Skokie. We experience it sometimes on a Sunday morning hanging at the Nosh café, on a Friday night snacking before Kabbalat Shabbat Services, on a Friday night after services at an Oneg, at an Adult Education program (often now including a meal or a nosh – I’m sensing a theme), or at a bigger event like our Annual Gala (mark your calendar for May 4, 2019) or our Purim Spiel coming up this month on March 23!

For many of us, we crave time to be with our friends and talk, sing and hang out. I invite you to come to TBI for a program or come in and hang out while your children are at Sunday School. Have a conversation, enjoy a snack, make a friend, create a memory and share a smile.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Dear Friends,

What is your favorite Purim memory? Is it yelling at the sound of Haman’s name at the megillah reading while shaking a homemade gregar (noise maker)? Is it your mother’s hamantaschen with your favorite filling? Your congregation’s Purim carnival? If you did not grow up with a Jewish childhood Purim can seem like a crazy holiday. Frankly, even if you did grow up Jewishly, Purim is not like the other Jewish holidays…. in some ways.

Purim which celebrates the story of Queen Esther’s heroism as she saves Jewish people is a story that elicits a lot of feelings for a lot of people. It is a story of intermarriage, anti-Semitism and overcoming incredible odds.

In modern times we have crafted Purim into a communal celebration replete with a congregational carnival, traditional holiday meal, the delivery of sweet treats to friends and not-yet friends, and the hearing of a story read aloud of a brave woman who saves her people.

This year, we will be celebrating Purim on Wednesday, March 20 which is, coincidentally, PURIM! We will begin at 4:15 p.m. with the famous TBI carnival that will take place upstairs in the school wing. The carnival will continue until 6:00 p.m. at which time the Brotherhood will serve a tasty dinner followed by the Megillah reading at 7:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to come in costume and bring a box of mac and cheese to be used as a gregar that will be donated following the service to the Niles Township Food Pantry.

Bring friends and family. Everyone is welcome. Tickets will be sold onsite for games as well as dinner. No need to rsvp, just come prepared to celebrate with all the TBI family.

B’Shalom,
Lori B. Sagarin

WHAT WAS IN YOUR LOX BOX?

On the morning of February 3, Super Bowl Sunday, dozens of TBI helpers delivered and distributed 88 Lox Boxes! Lori Sagarin’s dream of bringing back the Lox Box offering came to fruition. “I was hoping we could pull a great Lox Box together this year and we did it!” Sheila Rosenfeld coordinated the delivery side and too many volunteers to mention by name helped significantly.

In my 58 years of Jewish living, I’d never even heard of a Lox Box; it wasn’t a “thing” in South Bend, Indiana. My parents, Anita and Stu Fishman, chaired the “Deli Day” at my Temple Beth El for many years, but a Lox Box? Nope.

We were fortunate to procure the best bagels in the Chicagoland area, New York Bagels and Bialy, from right across the street. Forty-four dozen bagels, cases of lox, tomatoes, cucumber, red onion, Philadelphia cream cheese, coffee, tea, and orange juice were the staples. Traditionally, Lox Boxes included a pound cake or pastry, but we took to our amazing TBI cookie bakers and each box had a different set of homemade delicious cookies to enjoy.

And then there was the swag! Reaching out to members and beloved Jewish organizations, we accepted delivery from more than 20 sources: TBI gift certificates to the Nosh and the Sisterhood Judaica Giftshop, TBI magnets, informational materials from Maot Chitim, PJ library and Sarnoff Center, TBI wrist bands, coupons to Poochies, Kaufman’s BOGO certificate, MASA travel adapters, notepads and post-its, lunch bags, pens, Ahava hand cream, emery boards, bookmarks, and the random barrel full of monkeys with gummy type fish inside were welcome and interesting surprises. And there was more. Did you get a boomerang?

Lorri Fishman
TBI VP Fundraising 2017-19

Testimonials:
Helene Levine: It was a great lox box. I love eating lox and bagels while reading the history of the lox box!! Also, the cookies were amazing.
Susan Derex: It was delish! And great swag.
Stacy Oliver: It’s magical!
Nina Henry: Excellent Lox Box, Ladies! Thanks for organizing!
Sue Schneider: Lorri, Thank you for organizing THE BEST LOX BOX EVER!!!
Deborah Shulruf: I just want to complement you and the rest of the committee on the lox box. Everything in it was great and Jay and I will really enjoy it.
Jane Page: Much to my delight and surprise Jolie and Dale delivered a lox box to me on Sunday from the Temple. Thank you for sending it. The bagels were hot and fresh, and the lox and cream cheese were yummy. This is my favorite sandwich and it hit the spot. What a treat the homemade chocolate chip cookies were. Al loved his lunch and thanks you too.

HAPPY PURIM!

Wednesday
March 20, 2019
4:15pm - Carnival
6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Megillah Reading for all ages!

Saturday
March 23, 2019
6:30pm - Purim Shpiel!
See flyer for details

Temple Beth Israel welcomed renowned author James Carroll for a fascinating lecture in the evening of Saturday, February 16. Special thanks to Chairs Bob Agdern, Barbara Agdern, and Richard Rotberg for this wonderful event.
Each year, the women of Sisterhood create a memorable and empowering T'filot Nashim service. This year was no exception. The service was moving, and made more so, by the addition of the words of three incredible speakers: Susan Zoline, Alyce Heman, and Jane Page. Each woman spoke about the prophet Deborah, about the hard-fought rights of Women to vote, to be counted as equal, and of her own experiences as a woman. Two speakers spoke about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and her role in our society as a modern-day Deborah, and an inspiration to us all. For many years now, I have chosen to program the music of Jewish Women composers for this service. Koleynu, as always, sang beautifully and with their full hearts. It was a truly inspirational morning.

Some historians are calling 2019 the ‘Year of the Woman’. Perhaps because of the unprecedented number of women now serving in Congress, and at the State and local levels of government. Perhaps because of the #MeToo movement, and the rising number of women coming forth to publicly name something that was once considered shameful to admit. We now know it is far too common: sexual harassment and abuse. As women, we know that any gains we make today in equality, pay equity, and breaking the ‘glass ceilings’ of business, government and societal expectations, are because we stand on the shoulders of our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. We understand that our battles for justice are seeded in the marches, speeches, and hard work of those who came before us.

It is with this in mind that I am proud to announce two special programs. The first is a musical lecture that I will be giving for Sisterhood on Wednesday, April 3 at 12:00 pm, on the music of Jewish Women composers, all are welcome to attend. The second is the Koleynu Spring Concert, Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 pm. Koleynu, our Temple Beth Israel Adult Choir, is proud to be singing a concert devoted completely to the music of Jewish Women composers. We invite our entire TBI community, friends and family to attend.

Joy & Blessings,
Marla Aviva Bentley

VISIT TBI NOSH CAFÉ!

Need a cup of joe on a Sunday morning? Bagels calling your name on the way to Sunday School? Look no further! Stop in to the delightful Nosh café for a warm smile and hot cup of coffee. Open most days Bet Midrash is in session.

UNSUNG HERO - MARCH

Since we began this program of honoring our Unsung Heroes, most of the people we have honored have people who have stepped up to perform a task or role that needs to be done and have done it quietly, without fanfare and without any expectations. They take on tasks in order to be helpful and they want to contribute to or enhance our community.

This spirit of selflessness is part of what makes our community great. Our Jewish Life Council has been discussing the possibility of a mini-d’var Torah for several years. This year, someone stepped up to take leadership of this idea and has done a lot of the heavy lifting in writing these fabulous additions to our e-blast and in finding others to write them. He also steps up to Usher, to participate in services, and is always thoughtful and helpful to anyone he comes across in this community. Part of what makes TBI great are people like Harold Levine, this month’s Unsung Hero.
During the Temple’s Centennial year we were privileged to hear Words From The Heart from various members who shared their story at Shabbat Services. We were moved, entertained, and educated by these “mini autobiographies”. In our Sisterhood articles, we typically tell you about our programs and events. This month we want to share with you a little about some of our members. Hopefully you will learn something about these individuals you never knew, even though you see them often at Temple. Please “meet”:

Rozanne Epstein

I came of age in the late 50’s, early 60’s, when most women did not have the choices they have now. I am an only child of older parents and grew up on the South Side. My Mother died when I was in my early 30’s.

I told my parents that I wanted to attend Business School, but my Dad said “women don’t do that”, so I became a teacher, let me just say it was not my dream job. When Steve and I started our family, I left teaching.

When Steve needed temporary help in his office, I volunteered and stayed for 20 years! I had found my calling. I worked with the staff, dealt with corporations and individual clients.

So, who am I? I started as Rozanne Kaplan and became Rozanne Kaplan Epstein. We have 3 children, and 7 grandchildren.

Our son Michael and family live in Brooklyn NY. He is an award-winning documentary film maker. Our daughter-in-law Jennifer is a film maker. Our daughter Ellen, her husband Terry and family live in Indianapolis. Our son Michael and family live in Brooklyn NY. He is an award-winning documentary film maker. Our daughter Leslie and family live in Oak Park, IL. Her husband Max is the Rabbi at Oak Park Temple.

As I reflect on my life at TBI – I came as a young woman mourning her mother and stood to say Kaddish, stood when my children became Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, stood and danced as they were married, stood and held each grandchild when they were named, stood with Steve when Rabbi blessed us as we celebrated our 55th anniversary.

I can say that in a way I am a person forged by life experiences, I’m strong, determined, opinionated; a wife, a mother, Nonnie and friend and at peace with myself.

Lorri Fishman

Reflecting on 2018 – What a challenging year for my parents. My mom has persevered with 3 significant and successful surgeries and continues to recover slowly. My mom is a wonderful cook and baker and plays and teaches mahj – I say that in present tense because I really hope she can do that again in this New Year. My dad continues to work at age 82. I have an older sister, Sherri who lives in Indianapolis. We are 15 months apart. I am looking forward to 2019 – I just turned 58 and plan to make this year and beyond as full as I can.

Cyndy Novak

My first name is Cyndy spelled with 2 Y’s and it’s not short for Cynthia. It was very traumatizing never being able to find a license plate for my bike, a key chain or magnet that wasn’t spelled Cindy. I was born in Skokie but grew up in Niles with my Mom, Dad and my older Brother. My father was my biggest influence and the person who taught me the most. He was blind the majority of his life, but never saw that as an impediment. He taught me that if there was something I wanted, there would be a way to get it. I just had to figure it out. Although he passed away about 2 years ago, he is still helping me see my path.

I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BS in Business Administration and Healthcare Administration. While working full time, I attended grad school in the evenings and got my MBA in Health Administration. I have been with my current employer, Medtronic, for 17 years. I was lucky enough to meet my husband Brian, in 1998. We have very different stories about how we got together, but they both have a very happy ending. We were married in November 2000 in New Orleans, during hurricane season. It was VERY wet!! We have two fantastic children - Bella (14) and Max (12) and we just added a puppy, Ziva, to our family. We place a high value on travel and having kids did not stop us. They have been traveling with us since they were 6 months old!! We have been many places but have so many more to go.

Respectfully submitted by, Joanne Merritt and Pam Lavine
Co-Presidents, Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel

I grew up in South Bend, IN and was confirmed at Temple Beth El. I graduated high school in 1979 from South Bend John Adams Eagles (40th reunion this year!). I earned a biology degree from Indiana University, Bloomington and a MS in nutrition from Penn State. After graduation and as I prepared to take the GRE to go on to grad school, I lived back in South Bend and was hired as an assistant manager of a restaurant – with no experience. I was hired on the spot because I had a college degree and had previously worked at Godfather’s Pizza! My first professional job was at Spaulding Rehab Hospital in Boston as the “dietitian in the kitchen”.

I met my husband Andrew through the Reader personal ads in 1995, and we were married, had Joel, moved to Morton Grove, and had Aaron. Joel turned 22 a few weeks ago; Aaron is 16 and a junior at NW. I have been teaching nutrition at Kendall College/National Louis University as an adjunct instructor for 10 years, Andrew works with Advocate Health for 20 years.

I’m passionate about pottery, walking in the woods, keeping my appointment with my personal trainer once/week, donating blood regularly, cooking (though I’m terrible at planning meals), and travel though we don’t do it often enough. Outside of TBI I’m on a few committees: MG Farmers’ Market, Niles West Music Parents Association, and Niles West Parent Advisory Council.

UPCOMING SISTERHOOD EVENTS
March 3, 9:00 a.m. ......................... Maj Drop-In
March 6, 12:00 p.m. ..................... Open Program Meeting
March 10, 10:00 a.m. .................... Board Meeting
March 20 & 27, 10:00 a.m. .......... Torah Study with Rabbi
March 30, 6:00 p.m. ................... Spring Fundraiser - “Bunco”
April 3, 12:00 p.m. ..................... Open Program Meeting
April 14, 10:00 a.m. .................... Board Meeting
April 17 & 24, 10:00 a.m. .......... Torah Study with Rabbi
April 17, 7:00 p.m. ............ Sisterhood Book Discussion Group
April 26-28 ....................... WRJ Midwest District Kallah, OSRUI

SERVICES 101
March 15, March 29, and April 4
5:00-5:30 p.m.

Why do we do what we do? Study with Rabbi Weinberg to understand the structure, content, and meaning of a Friday night Erev Shabbat service. Join this 3 part series for any or all of the sessions.
**B'RUCHIM HABA'IM - WELCOME!**

**JOINING THE TBI FAMILY**

Our coverage of new Temple Beth Israel members continues. We’re delighted to welcome the following TBI households who have discovered just how friendly, supportive, and inclusive our community is. As it begins its second century, TBI offers a vibrant and welcoming presence in Skokie, the North Shore, and beyond.

**Stephanie & Henry Francik**
Chicago, IL
Children: Twins – Ivy & Kenny, 9

When it came to selecting a synagogue that would have all the accommodations for special needs kids to attend Hebrew School and Sunday School, Stephanie Francik was impressed with Temple Beth Israel. Her in-person meetings and follow up conversations with Lori Sagarin, gave her great comfort. Right then and there, she knew TBI was the place for her children.

First Impressions: TBI is beautiful, Rabbi Weinberg is great and the kids’ third grade teacher (Mrs. Friedman) is wonderful. The Francik’s think it’s awesome that Ivy and Kenny enjoy Hebrew School and leave the building smiling.

Getting to Know You: The twins attend Oriole Park Elementary School in Chicago’s Edgebrook neighborhood and are getting comfortable with their public and religious school education. Henry Francik makes sure the kids get to TBI on time when he drives them each week to Hebrew School. Stephanie is employed as a dean at William Howard Taft High School in Chicago. She is also a licensed clinical professional counselor.

**Laura & Norwin Merens**
Glenview, IL

On the occasion of TBI’s 100th birthday on January 31, 2018, Laura and Norwin had front row seats to all the festivities as they joined alumni and congregants at the Temple’s centennial celebration in Skokie. The Merens decided to attend after reading the impressive cover story that had appeared weeks earlier in The Chicago Jewish News chronicling TBI’s history.

First Impressions: We attended a Havdalah service and movie night at TBI earlier that month and were warmly greeted by Lori, Marla and Amber. Jon Schneider and Wendy Fox also showed great interest in our attending. After going to a number of other programs – including the congregational Passover Seder – the Merens made the decision last summer to leave the conservative synagogue in Wilmette where they had been active members for more than 25 years.

Getting to Know You: Norwin’s relationship to TBI dates back to the early 1960s when his parents, Irving & Goldia Merens, joined the Temple so Norwin and his brother could receive their Hebrew and religious school education at the newly opened “branch” building in Skokie. And, there’s more, Norwin’s paternal grandparents, David & Lillian Merens, affiliated as TBI members in Albany Park during the mid 1920s.

Laura & Norwin are immersing themselves in the Temple. They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with the congregation as part of the Likrat Shabbat in Mendelsohn Hall.

The couple maintains a busy schedule. Laura works full-time as a patient care coordinator at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Norwin is a self-employed B2B marketing/communications consultant. He also manages special events for trade associations and corporations.

**Sharon & Matt Mitzen**
Evanston, IL
Children: Ethan, 18, Chava, 16 & Nadav, 14

Sharon & Matt Mitzen joined TBI last summer after more than five decades of affiliation at Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston. This included Matt’s long-standing, 49-year connection and the b’nai mitzvah of the three young adult Mitzen kids.

First Impressions: We “synagogue shopped” starting with Temple Beth Israel since it was walking distance from our home. The friendly TBI community impressed us, as did Rabbi Michael Weinberg who seemed truly interested in congregants, not just the congregation. While our children have yet to take advantage of programming available, it looks like content they will enjoy.

We are intrigued by the numerous TBI program options and are trying to participate in as many events as time permits. Most recently, we attended the GI Jews movie, “Tree of Life” candle light vigil at TBI and the festive erev Chanukah celebration.

Getting to Know You: Matt is a CPA and life long Evanston resident having graduated from Evanston Township High School (ETHS). He received his religious education from Beth Emet. A data analyst, Sharon Mitzen was raised in Northbrook. She is a graduate of Glenbrook North High School and attended BJBE.

They have three children – Ethan, who is a freshman at the University of Minnesota; Chava, who is a junior at ETHS; and Nadav, an 8th grader at MLK Literary & Fine Arts School.

**ATTENTION JOURNALISTS AND ASPIRING JOURNALISTS!**

Reminder: Material for the bulletin is due electronically to the Bulletin Editor at Bulletin@TBISkokie.org on the 10th of the month prior to publication. If you do not have access to a computer, please submit paper copy to the Temple office by the 7th of the month prior to publication so that it can be transcribed and sent by the 10th. The deadline for the April bulletin is **March 10th**. Have an idea for an article? Send it in!

**SMALL COMMITMENT BUT A BIG CONTRIBUTION!**

Calling all TBI members! We need able-bodied Ushers – people who love TBI, Shabbat, and inviting friends and newcomers into our wonderful community! For a job that asks for a small time commitment, but makes a BIG contribution, contact Nina Henry at: Ninjanina56@aol.com or (773) 761-3928
GET INVOLVED
#JewishgivingforJewishliving

Notes from the Social Action Council

Social Action is an integral part of Temple Beth Israel. It is who we are as a congregation, both in our learning and our actions. Some of the things we have recently done as a congregation were collecting holiday gifts for the Herzl School, and collecting food for the Niles Food Pantry, especially for those people affected by the government shutdown. There was also a special program raising awareness around helping the homeless (Connections and Wings) at the end of February.

Please take the time to check “TORAH IN ACTION” on our website. This site has current events relevant to the congregation. There is going to be a Health Fair in conjunction with the spring Blood Drive on March 31. Also, Pesach is just around the corner. TBI will need people to make deliveries of food on behalf of Maot Chitim on Sunday, April 14. Packing of the food will take place the previous Sunday, April 7.

Finally, the need for help in communities around the country still exist. Please check out the website for places and ways in which you can help.

CELEBRATE YOUR SIMCHAS AT TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

Being a member of Temple Beth Israel is like being part of a large family. When a family simcha occurs, such as a special anniversary, birthday, baby naming, aufruf or Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your friends at TBI would love to celebrate with you and help make your celebration a success. Plan to mark your special occasion by hosting a Friday night Oneg, and let the Catering committee make sure every detail is perfect. You can also help celebrate other simchas by volunteering your time to work with the catering committee.

To schedule a date and make arrangements for your simcha or to volunteer your time to help others celebrate, please contact Linda Lewison (847.677.9369), Judy Kemp (847.475.5569) or Marcia Satyr (847.679.8673).

All profits from Catering events are donated to the congregation to support programming and daily operations.

CONTRIBUTIONS

A minimum contribution of $15.00 (unless otherwise noted) for donation to be acknowledged with a card and published in the bulletin.

NANETTE B. MENDELSOHN TREE OF LIFE FUND

Funds used for the beautification of Temple Beth Israel

Donor In Memory of
Harriet and Richard Arons ........ Laura Eisman’s ................ engagement to Justin Kohn

SIDNEY I. COLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Provides camp scholarships for our students who attend Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp

Donor In Honor of
Naomi Bayer
Rozanne & Steve Epstein........... Michael & Susie .................................................. Lorge’s grandson

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Provides funds for charitable uses within and outside the congregation at the discretion of the Rabbi

Donor In Honor of
Ursula Buckman ..................... Rabbi Weinberg
Steve & Cindy Franklin........... Eileen Isaac’s .................................................. special birthday
Laura & Norwin Merens ......... Janis and Mark Fine .................. for their kindness at the TBI Retreat
Laura & Norwin Merens ......... Jack Horbal for his ............... kindness at the TBI Retreat

Donor In Memory of
Eve Kampmeinert .................. Phyllis Bleadon
Joseph Goldzweig .............. Arlene M. Glaser
Shirley Gottlieb ................. Isadore Gottlieb
Paula & Larry Hyman .......... Isadore Gottlieb
Gary Zimmerman ............... Martin Harold
Trudy Isbitz Brodsky ........ Gertrude Isbitz
Susan & Robert Reisberg ...... Annamae Ostrar

EDUCATION FUND

Provides funds for Jewish education at TBI

Donor In Honor of
Susie & Marty Fine ............. Laurie Kimmel
Laura & Leon Finkel ............. Marjorie Getz & .................. David Sheftel’s ................ daughter’s engagement
Mindy R. Schwartz ................ Ernst Heimann’s .................. 90th birthday

Donor In Memory of
Joanna Liu
Maven Wave Partners ............ Phyllis Bleadon
Neala Dill Coan ..................... Sydell Dill
Wendy Fox & Jon Schneider ...... Elaine Fox
Linda & Zachary Fainman ...... Sidney Mandell
Claire Ross ......................... Serge Ross
Barbara Seaver ................... Ethel & Milt Seaver
Susan Schneider .................. Alan Singer

MUSIC FUND

Provides funds for music programs

Donor In Memory of
Jerry Teske & John Parro ......... Phyllis Bleadon
Laura & Leon Finkel ............. Kenneth Leo Cognac
Aviva Goldman ................... Lorraine Goldman

SOCIAL SERVICE FUND

Provides support for social service programs within the temple and in the surrounding community and to some individual tzedakah recipients

Donor In Honor of
Kathy Craine ..................... Temple Beth Israel
Nina & David Henry .......... Doris Simon’s .................. great grandchild

RABBI ERNST M. LORGE SANCTUARY FUND

Provides for the continued maintenance and beautification of our sanctuary ($18.00 minimum)

Donor In Memory of
Betty Beller ....................... Howard Beller
Laura & Norwin Merens ....... David Merens
Laura & Norwin Merens ...... Irving D. Merens

FAYE AND HOWARD RICE CULTURAL FUND

Provides support for social and cultural programming, including scholars in residence

Donor In Honor of
Laura & Norwin Merens .......... Ellen Kaufman’s .................. speedy recovery

ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund is used to help send our children on authorized trips to Israel and supports our commitment to SKIP (Send a Kid to Israel Program) which underwrites travel to Israel

Donor In Honor of
Laura & Leon Finkel ........... Rabbi Bronstein’s ......... induction in the Glencoe Hall of Fame

HERZL B. MENDELSOHN LIBRARY FUND

This fund is used exclusively for the purchase of books, periodicals, furnishings and supplies for our library

Donor In Memory of
Harriet & Richard Arons ....... Morris Eisman
SAVE THE DATE

Midnight at the Oasis
Featuring Performers: Guy King and Sarah Marie Young

May 4, 2019, 6:30 p.m.