TBI DOES HAVE TALENT!
A great time was had by everyone at this amazing event. Thank you to all the brave singers AND the cheerleaders who attended. A special thank you to our Angels and Community Sponsors:

Barbara and Bob Agdern • Carol and Erwin Barrington
Sara and Billy Belkov • Berman/Drucker Family
Myles Berman • Marianna Tax and Harvey Choldin
Janis and Mark Fine • Cindy and Steve Franklin
Jennifer and Neal Gussis
Wendy Kabaker and Warren Arnold
Judy and Bob Kemp • June and Joel Levin
Kathy Kirk and David Levinson
Gladys and Lory Merritt • Rebecca and Greg Reuhs
Lori and Rabbi Jim Sagarin • Barbara and David Slavin

BERGER SCHATZ
BYLINE BANK
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CHICKEN INN
NOTHING BUNDT CAKE
GRAZIANO'S
JET'S PIZZA
PORTILLO'S
SKOKIE GRILL & BAKERY
PRAMOD SHAH
LITTLE CAESARS
LIBERTAD
VILLAGE MARKET
KAUFMAN'S
PANERA

We would like to personally thank the TBI members, Sponsors and Angels without whom Karaoke night would not have been the rousing success it was. We are immensely moved by your generosity and participation.

Todah Rabah!
Sheila Rosenfeld and Joanne Merritt, Co-VP's of Fundraising

Shabbat Services

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

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, December 7 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, December 13**
7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, December 14 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Yayeitzei”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, December 20**
5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, December 21 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Yayeitzei”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, December 27**
6:00 P.M. – Shabbat Chanukah Dinner
7:30 P.M. – Chanukah Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, December 28 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Mikzat”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, January 3**
5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat
January Birthday Shabbat

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, January 4 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Yayeitzei”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, January 10**
6:00 P.M. – PJ Library Shalom Dinner
7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services with Koleynu
Sharing the Learnings of our TBI LGBTQ Leadership Committee

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, January 11 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Yayeitzei”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, January 17**
5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, January 18 at 10:30 A.M.**
Bar Mitzvah of Aden Dembo, son of Jessica and Stephen Dembo
Torah Portion “Semor”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, January 24**
7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, January 25 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Vayitz”

**SHABBAT**
**Friday Evening, January 31**
6:30 P.M. – Shabbat in the Park ... in Mendelsohn Hall
Dessert is sponsored by TBI Brotherhood in honor of TBI’s Birthday

**SHABBAT**
**Saturday Morning, February 1 at 10:30 A.M.**
Torah Portion “Bo”

*Please note time

December 2019 – January 2020
Kislev - Shevat 5780
Volume 103 Number 5

**Rabbi's Column**

We are living through a particularly difficult time in our country's history. As I write these words, the live, televised hearings for the Presidential impeachment investigation by the U.S. House of Representatives have just gotten underway. Even the initiation of a process that could lead to the removal from office of a duly elected President marks a period of uncertainty and stress in our government and in our country. Whether you are a supporter of or a detractor of the President, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican or an independent, whether you believe that you already know what the outcome of these investigations ought to be...the entire process is unsettling. One could argue that the process itself is expressive of the strength and health of our democratic process – that provides orderly procedures of checks and balances to intervene when necessary. On the other hand, one could argue that the tone of these processes, and the commentary about them in the press, bespeaks the extent to which our political system has moved away from a focus on responsible governance and bi-partisan work for the good of the country and its citizens and has fallen into partisan bickering wherein each side claims to have at heart the best interest of the country when in fact they seem most interested in their own best interest and that of their party.

I am not enough of a constitutional expert, nor am I sufficiently well-versed in all of the details, to render a judgement as to whether the President should be removed from office because of what he did. I do know that the office of the Presidency has been severely diminished by the conduct of this President. Many of the President’s supporters admire his regular and persistent name calling and mocking of others, but I think that such belittling behavior actually belittles the speaker more than the target. The President’s apparent penchant for provocation further lessens the stature of the office. Furthermore, it now seems clear that the President’s style of demeaning rhetoric has had the effect of emboldening people to commit actual acts of violence, hatred, racism and anti-Semitism. We, therefore, need to be especially vigilant to protect the safety, freedom and civil rights of every citizen.

I believe that we will weather this storm, and I hope that our country will end up stronger for it. A good leader ought to model the highest standards of ethical behavior and ought not only to be above reproach but even above suspicion. And I hope that the next President will be able to repair the damage done to the office of the Presidency by being a model of virtue and ethical conduct and ethical speech. Whatever the outcome of this process, we, the voters, need to learn that we ought to make all our choices for elected leaders based on the ethical character of the candidates, as well as the platforms that they espouse. As good citizens we ought to consider not only our personal and limited self-interest but the larger good of the country and all its inhabitants.

*Please help use recognize your upcoming simchah correctly in the Bulletin. If you are planning a bar or bat mitzvah, please make sure we know exactly how you want your names to be listed. Without prior notification, the Bulletin will list names as they appear in our official TBI records. Please email Bulletin@TBIskokie.org with your information.*
IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MAZAL TOV TO:
Michael and Susie Lorge on the birth of their newborn son, Alexia and Howard Dryver on the birth of their new nephew and Wendy Fox and Jon Schneider on the birth of their new great-nephew. Ernie Jeremiah, son of Alexis and Rabbeinu Efraim, Wendy Gann on her engagement to Scott Katzenelson.

MAZAL TOV TO:
Naye and Howard Dryver, Fox and Jon Schneider, Jeremiah, son of Alexis and Rabbi Ari Lorge.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel wishes to profoundly sorrow the passing of Clarisse Irwin.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of Sherrin Berger.

MORRIS FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND

Established to respond to emergency needs of individuals in the Skokie community identified as the Village of Skokie social services staff.

MAZAL TOV – B’NAI MITZVAH!

Temple Beth Israel wishes Mazal Tov to Aiden Berman-Cutler on the birth of their new nephew and on the birth of their new grandson and to Northern Illinois University.

ATTENTION JOURNALISTS AND ASPIRING JOURNALISTS!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As this TBI bulletin comes to the readers of December and January, I would like to share with you some of the opportunities that bring members together to pray, to learn, to have fun and to connect or reconnect with one another. I sincerely encourage you to be aware of the many programs and activities that our congregation sponsors during the next few months and beyond. This article will touch on just a few.

For more information, make sure to review your Torah at TBI Jewish Learning for Jewish Living pamphlet which provides detailed information about learning opportunities for adults. If you have any questions about registering for programs you can contact the Temple office. You can also register directly on ShulCloud.

We note with sorrow the passing of Ursula Bucchini z”l, mother of Alyssa and Jordan Berman-Cutler.

We would like to belatedly thank Linda Janush and Susan Zoline for the Likrat Shabbat on December 6, 2019.

We would like to thank Beth Sair, Estelle London, and Steven Zoline who made a donation for the Likrat Shabbat on December 6, 2019 in honor of their December birthdays.

We would like to thank Amber Wood who made a donation for the Likrat Shabbat on January 3, 2019 in honor of her January birthday.

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of Lillian Rubenstein. May her memory be for a blessing.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

MUSIC FUND

Provides funds for music programs

RABBI ERIK S. ANSON SANTUARY FUND

Provides for the continued maintenance and beautification of our sanctuary.

$18.00 minimum

ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

HOSTS FROM THE PAST

MORRIS FAMILY COMMUNITY FUND

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DAWN MACE HUNGER FUND

Funds used for providing flowers for the Bima

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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.

Amanda & Jacov Jackover • Evanston, IL
Children: Ben, 6-1/2 & Nate, 5
The Jackover Family is delighted to be new Temple Beth Israel members and look forward to planting roots at the Temple. Their initial contact with TBI was through visiting the website and joining friends at TBI events.

First Impressions: “TBI was a very good choice. We appreciate the warm, welcoming and family-focused nature of the congregation,” Amanda acknowledges. The Jackovers have enjoyed celebrating the recent High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah with their TBI family. “At TBI, we have found both our spiritual home and a fun and friendly place to be. We are thrilled to be a part of this community, learning and growing together.”

Getting to Know You: Son Ben just started Sunday School as a first grader and has been having a lot of fun. One of his recent projects was exploring his in-game character and in the future he is hoping to become a character in a video game.

Richard Peterson • Des Plaines, IL
Richard first learned about TBI through friends and neighbors who had been involved with the Temple. Like so many new members, he has found the community exceptionally friendly and inclusive.

First Impressions: “I have been to many services at Temple Beth Israel. These have encompassed Shabbat, holiday worship – and so much more. Invite friends and family alike to join you for services and programs throughout the year!”

Luisa Tennant • Des Plaines, IL
Meet Luisa, who also lives in the Des Plaines area. She attended Shabbat services on Friday nights and various TBI special events before joining the temple in mid-September.

First Impressions: According to Luisa, one of her favorite activities was the bunco event sponsored by Sisterhood earlier this year. She also liked the pizza party held in conjunction with Sukkot. She adds that TBI has a lot to offer its members and the TBI family stories and will continue to do so for years to come.

 Getting to Know You: Luisa noted, “When I entered the doors at (TBI), I was greeted by warm and friendly people. I receive a tri-fold Shabbat flyer explaining the plans and upcoming services.

TBI’S DOORS ARE OPEN WIDE
Temple Beth Israel has so much to offer – a diverse, involved and caring congregation, a top-notch professional staff, a warm and welcoming home for worship and spiritual exploration, outstanding schools and adult education, active and friendly Sisterhood and Brotherhood, an important community service and social justice, and so much more. Invite friends and family to join us for services and programs throughout the year!”

HONOR THOSE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY OR VETERANS
To honor those who serve or have served in our military, TBI Brotherhood and the Social Action Committee are asking you to make a voluntary donation to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. MAZON is a nationwide organization that advocates for smart and effective policies to eliminate hunger and its influencing policies and laws, and supporting anti-hunger organizations. Among MAZON’s areas of focus is active duty military and veterans. This is where these specific donations will go.

Please fill out the donation card, but make sure your checks are made out to TBI, Temple Beth Israel, noting that it is for Social Service Fund – VETERANS. Donation cards are available in the office. All donations are tax-deductible. Contact the office for more information.

Brotherhood and the Social Action Council are also asking you to fill out postcards addressed to Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth which urge them to include H.R. 3811, “Military Hunger Prevention Act,” in the pending 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). H.R. 3801 addressed the issue of military hunger in our country. Veterans and military families often have the greatest need to ensure that families in the military receive the proper amount of food each month.

If you are interested in learning more about how to visit and get involved in MAZON, or of the Green Team, come to our meeting on Sunday, December 1, 10:00 am in room 200. For more information, please contact the MAZON or Green Team coordinators.

The Green Team ‘s pilot composting program ended with “Pizza in the Hut.” Four successful events were held in which only compostable plates, cups and utensils were used and all food scraps and paper were collected to be sent out for composting. The Green Team is very interested in these pilot events and has recommended a full-scale 2.0. After a highly successful pilot, beginning on November 22, 2019, all Friday night Shabbat services will be “green events.” Only reusable or compostable tableware will be used to serve food and drinks, and all food scraps and compostable plates, napkins, cups and utensils will be collected for composting. Additionally, the Green Team has identified nine events between now and March 2020 that will be designated green events. In the future, the Green Team is looking to encourage other members of the congregation to help the Green Team staff the compost containers to ensure that waste is properly sorted. Anyone who is interested in joining the Green Team or who wants to find out more about the program may contact their coordinators, Eqleon Klegon (eqleon@klegon.com) and Lori B. Sagarin (sagarinl@structorg.com).

Most of us are aware of the benefits of composting. Composting provides an environmentally sound method of recycling food and yard waste while avoiding filling up our landfills. During each of their pilot events, numerous people asked about how to start composting in their own homes. The company we are working with, Collective Resources, Inc., offers industrial composting that is on a much larger scale than is available to individual homes. A simple way to get started is to purchase a home composting bin and collection and pick-up of compostable materials. For further information, contact Collective Resources, Inc. at https://collectiverecourcesus/ or by phone at 847.733.7666.

One of the most significant ways one can bring light is through learning – welcoming everyone into our family. As it begins its second century, TBI offers a vibrant and welcoming presence in Skokie, the North Shore, and beyond.
Music is an inestimable part of our memory. Certain melodies take immediate residence in our lives, and in this way become a part of our history. For most of us, coming to TBI on Shabbat or for the holidays, and hearing a particular melody, harkens us back to our childhood, or a time with our family, or a certain event, one that remains indelibly etched in our memories. Some melodies are so old, we do not know exactly when they originated, and we consider them minimal translated as ‘from Sinai’. However, for some members of our congregation, our melodies are a reflection of their journey. Congregants who have just become familiar with, to practice your Hebrew, to feel a part of our resource it is intended to be – to learn, to listen, to sing along, to break down those barriers for new people. Even our name tags try to identify anyone who may need to be onboarded, introduced, and made to feel welcome.

I have been thinking about ways that our music and our prayer can be more welcoming and inclusive to all. When I introduce a new melody, I attempt to repeat it for weeks or even months until it becomes familiar. Another way is to make sure that new music is always supported by old favorites. But what about the person who doesn’t have any Jewish music memory? For that I had to think out of the box. Why not provide the opportunity to hear our music away from the synagogue? What if they could listen ahead of time? Or hear something afterward?

Working on the project for many months now, my hope was to create an online resource; a collection of censored melodies. The goal was to record sections of Shabbat, holiday and High Holy Day worship, to break down the larger recordings into individual prayers, and then to create a web page that each of these prayers can be heard. Recording was a fairly simple task but breaking down the recorded music has been much more laborious. I have now completed this in the coming year, but I am so pleased to announce that a large section is ready to be seen and heard. This resource is not just for new listeners, it is designed for everyone, and accessible in the comfort of your own home. After much revision of my Hebrew school blog, I am proud to introduce my new site, Mishkan T’filah.

When you click on the Prayer page, or http://marlaaviva.edu/quotes, you have the opportunity to access familiar melodies and some melodies that are new to our congregation.

Continued on Page 4
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When you click on the Prayer page, or http://www.misnaiav.edu/blogs/prayer/, you have the opportunity to hear melodies that are familiar with, the melodies most often heard at TBI. This will be a huge work in progress, and the upcoming recordings are on an ongoing basis. For now, I have uploaded the complete Seder K’tiv Ha’torah (the Service for the Reading of Torah) through our concluding blessings. Each prayer has a prayer card listed for Mishna T’niah, the blue book prayer we use at Shabbat. Also listed is the composer and arranger of the melody we are singing. So please feel free to download the full collection of these melodies for your own personal and congregation use.

Included are the blessings before and after Torah, the blessings before and after Bar Mitzvah, the blessings before Nishmah, and the Munson’s Kiddush and much more. My hope is that you will use this as the resource it is intended to be – to learn, to listen, to sing along, to become familiar, to practice for your own congregation or our holy community. This is my gift to you. Chag Urim Samaach, may your holidays be filled with joy and light.

Joy & Blessings, Marla Aviva Bentley

Continued from Page 4

In other news, Brotherhood is pleased to announce that it will be making a financial contribution to help underwrite 2020 sustainability initiatives undertaken by TBI’s Green Committee.

Nirvor Mores & Randall Heman
Brotherhood Co-Presidents

SISTHERD NEWS

The Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) Midwest District held their biennial Leadership Training Weekend & Interim Board Meeting at Olin-Sang-Ruby Institute camp (OSRUI) during the weekend of October 25-27, 2019. This weekend was an opportunity for sisterhoods to connect, develop leadership skills, and learn new ideas for fundraising, social action projects, and networking with new people. The beauty of the OSRUI grounds enhanced our worship and our joy in meeting with the community of sisters from our own and neighboring states. Sisterhood TBI is well-represented on the Midwest District Board, Linn Ullenbrauck, Laura Cooper, Andi Blain, and Sheila Rosenfeld take leadership roles within WRJ Midwest. Sisterhood TBI members reflected on their experiences:

Jane Page

"I always look forward to attending any of the WRJ Midwest weekends up at OSRUI. I enjoy participating in the Shabbat services, attending the various workshops, socializing with new and old friends, eating and playing mah. This year at Interim, I led an activity of creating paper flowers to be used for centerpieces at our meals. Those that participated had a lot of fun and were very creative. I want to thank Laura Cooper and her committee who did a wonderful job of organizing a meaningful, inspiring, motivating, spiritual and fun weekend.

Sisterhood Co-Presidents - Marla Aviva Bentley and Cynthia Miller

Continued from Page 4

More than 70 TBI Brotherhood members and their guests attended two beer-sampling sessions held in mid-November at the Hopleaf in Chicago. The events were filled with good fellowship, a bit of competition, and a lot of fun. Each beer was sampled and members formed small groups to discuss the characteristics of the beer. For each session, we also had a special guest speaker to talk about the brewing process, the history of the Hopleaf, and tips for selecting the right beer.

The programming organized by Jeff Dorfman, a Brotherhood past president and current chair of the Temple’s membership committee, has witnessed increased participation over the past 11 years. The event now requires scheduling two nights to meet the demand of those who have enjoyed the drinking of eight micro beers and the informative lectures conducted by Michael Roper, Hopleaf’s owner and resident brew afficianado.

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Children: Ben, 6-1/2 & Nate, 5
The Jacover Family is delighted to be new Temple Beth Israel members and look forward to planting roots at the Temple. Their initiation included attending family/tot programs and joining friends at TBI events.

First Impressions: “TBI was a very good choice. We appreciate the warm, welcoming and family-focused nature of the congregation,” Amanda acknowledges. The Jacovers have enjoyed celebrating the recent High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah with their TBI family. “At TBI, we have found both our spiritual home and a fun and friendly place to be. We are thrilled to be a part of this warm and caring community.”

Getting to Know You: Bart, a recent transplant, is the assistant director for the Chicago Symphony Chorale and enjoys skiing and cooking.

Richard Peterson • Des Plaines, IL
Richard first learned about TBI through friends and neighbors who had been involved with the Temple. Like so many new members, he has found the community exceptionally friendly and gracious.

First Impressions: “I have been to many services at Temple Beth Israel. These have encompassed Shabbat, holiday worship and other programs. I was always impressed by the warm and welcoming nature of the congregation.”

Getting to Know You: Richard spent more than 25 years in the product identification labeling business in sales and customer service capacities. Today, he spends time at the Fribbie senior center in Des Plaines and at the local library participating in various programs.

His Friday afternoons are spent at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge where he functions as a “way finder” guide bringing visitors to various areas.

Luisa Tennant • Des Plaines, IL
Meet Luisa, who also lives in the Des Plaines area. She attended Shabbat services on Friday nights and various TBI special events before joining the Temple in mid-September.

First Impressions: According to Luisa, one of her favorite activities was the bunco event sponsored by Sisterhood earlier this year. She also liked the pizza party held in conjunction with Sukkot. She adds that TBI has a lot to offer its members and the community-at-large. In the near term, she looks forward to attending other programs and providing volunteer support. “Thinking about what Temple has meant to her as she attended events as a guest, Luisa notes, “When I entered the doors at (TBI), I was greeted by warm and friendly people. I receive a tri-fold Shabbat flyer explaining the plans and upcoming services.”

Getting to Know You: Luisa can tell you what it was like to grow up in a large family. She was the eldest of 11 children and functioned as her mother’s personal assistant. She enjoyed those duties, but was always hoping to be able to tell my brothers and sisters what to do – Power," she adds. These days, she works at AMITA Health Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines as a unit secretary.

Born and raised Catholic, she married a wonderful Jewish man. He taught her the Hebrew blessing recited during Chanukah. When the congregation readies the last word of the prayer for Shabbat, Luisa is tempted to say Chanukah. As the holiday approaches, she knows it will be correct when she makes the needed substitution for the holiday.

Dear Friends,

At the darkest time of the year, it is upon us to bring light into the world. We at TBI do that in so many ways. By now all of you have had the opportunity to support our Hacafot Shabbat project and we are truly grateful to everyone who has contributed. Hadavalah and a Mizvah is yet another opportunity for us to do good work and put good out into the world. On Saturday, these 12 families with families will gather for Hadavalah, a mitzvah project and a light dinner of pizza and potluck sides, apps and desserts. With Chanukah fast approaching, this is a good opportunity to help begin your children and grandchildren understand that this season is much more than gifts. This holiday is about bringing light…something we all need to do in intentional ways.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal spoke about the importance of telling family tales, especially those told over and over again. We are a people who value an oral tradition and what was most interesting in this article was the importance of passing down stories to the next generation. How many of your children are listening? Of children and young adults surveyed, 90% were able to recount and retell their family stories. This is a staggering statistic given the amount of time our kids spend on devices. "No one - especially those who make significant sacrifices for our country - deserves to go hungry." Please fill out the postcards or go online to https://www.epicgardening.com/best-indoor-compost-bins/ or by phone at 847.733.7665.

Chanukah is one of the stories which we tell over and over again. We traditionally tell the tale, the story of the oil lasting 8 days. I guess there is a rare Jewish child around the world who does not know this story. "Who can retell the most interesting Chanukah story?" is a popular ice-breaker in a long-sung Chanukah song. My hope is that we all can retell the story of Chanukah and our family stories and will continue to do so for years to come.

Wishing you a Chanukah filled with light,
Lori S. Bagarin
B’RUCHIM HABA’IM - WELCOME! JOINING THE TBI FAMILY

The Sisterhood Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 in the TBI Cohn Library at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing White Houses, a novel by Amy Bloom which has been called a "narrative novel about a woman who is simultaneously a fascinating and captivating confidant of a forgotten woman between two different eras, one of them viewed by all the world as a saint."

People magazine states “Amy Bloom deftly explores what might have been in this novel about the real romance between Eleanor Roosevelt and journalist Lorena Hickok...a rich, engrossing, almost perfectly constructed novel that is as rife with plot and suspense as it is with wry observation.”

First Impressions: “It’s a sensuous, captivating account of a forbidden affair between two women, one of them viewed by all the world as a saint.”

Meeting on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 9:00 am in the TBI Cohn Library.

Please RSVP to Jane Page, janepage67@gmail.com or Paula Sabin, paulasabin@gmail.com.

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We had a great turnout of eager jurists who were happy to taste, and judge, the contenders. Using a twenty point scale, the jurists were presented with ten bagel samples to compare appearance, exterior crust, interior dough, flavor, and overall total package. At the end, everyone voted for their overall favorite, and they were asked to submit a compete ranking from best to worst. For scientific rigor, we tried to keep the playing fields level, and all bagels were collected the morning of the option, but no cream cheese was served since the emphasis was on the event to sample them at optimal freshness. Butter was given as an option, but no cream cheese was served since the emphasis was on the taste of bagel and not the additional toppings.

**The Results**

For the overall favorite, Greenwood Deli in Niles won with 25% of the total vote. However, the Taste of New York Bagel, Bro Bagel, Great American Bagel, Kaufman’s Deli, and New York Bagel & Bialy (Skokie) all tied for 2nd, each with 10% of the vote. Given the number of top favorites, we sifted through the full set of ranked choices to more fully examine the data. When looking at how often a bagel was ranked either 1st, 2nd or 3rd, Greenwood Deli was in the top 3 on 61% of the ballots and New York Bagel & Bialy (Skokie) was on 50%. If we lower the threshold to the top 5 choices (1st - 5th place), Greenwood Deli, New York Bagel & Bialy, Taste of New York Bagel, Bro Bagel, and the Upper Crust Bagel all appeared in the top 5 on over half of all the ballots. Perhaps it is not surprising that our diverse community has a diverse set of opinions. Fortunately for us, we have an embarrassment of bagel riches in the Chicago area with many great options for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks again to Upper Crust Bagels, TONY Bagels & Deli, New York Bagel & Bialy, Greenwood Deli, and David Lapidus for donating bagels for the event.

**The Results**

A hallmark of Judaism is our lifelong learning. From toddlerhood to old age we are always learning - both from the Torah and from the world around us. The first week of January 2020 provides us with two different ways to learn about the LGBTQ community, which is part of the larger Jewish and TBI community.

TBI has just completed a year-long Leadership Project with Keshet Boston. Keshet works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and our families in Jewish life. During the past year we have explored ways to help our community be more explicitly welcoming to current and future LGBTQ TBI members. We have started by making small changes in ShulCloud, and the use of pronouns on some name tags. We were proud to walk as a community in the first Buffalo Grove Pride Parade last June (see the website for great photos). Upcoming changes include more gender-neutral bathroom signs and two opportunities to learn as a community.

On Sunday, January 5th (9:15 - 10:45 am) TBI member Johanna Fine will teach LGBTQ 101: a diversity and inclusion training. Open to the entire congregation, this interactive session will include education of LGBTQIA terms, inclusion within Jewish values and being mindful of unconscious assumptions based on internal biases. Please RSVP by calling the Temple Office or online via ShulCloud.

Our Friday, January 10th 7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services will include “Sharing the Learnings of our TBI LGBTQ Leadership Committee.” The evening will include special readings from members of the committee and a D’Var Torah with words from Charlie Kite and Tracey Kite about the journey of a family with a transgender child. The Keshet LGBTQ committee will sponsor the D’var following the service. One of the gifts of Reform Judaism is our capacity to adapt to the changing world. As once-hidden members of the LGBTQ community are ready to be seen and celebrated, let’s make sure the TBI community knows and understands how to help.

**Featured Food of the Month**

Thousands of people in the Chicagoland area get food from the ARK and the Niles Food Pantry. Let’s help keep their shelves stocked. Each month a food will be identified as a high need food item. Please drop off the requested food item in the ARK box in the foyer.

- **December** is Regular or Herbal Tea month.
- **January** is canned soup.
- **February** is oatmeal.

Other donations are welcome. Please make sure that all foods are Kosher, and that the expiration date is greater than 6 months from the date of donation. On behalf of the ARK and the Social Action Council, we thank you.

**Chanukah HANUKKAH HANUKKAH**

May this Festival of Lights bring light to the darkness for all.

Chag Urim Sameach!
A REPORT FROM THE YES COMMITTEE
Tasty Verdicts at The Bagel Inquiry by Adam & Jessica Eisenberg

Who makes the best bagel around? At The Bagel Inquiry, we sampled sesame bagels from 10 locations in the area to try to find an answer. We are thankful to the generous support from several sponsors: Taste of New York (TONY) Bagels & Deli in Chicago, Greenwood Deli in Niles, Upper Crust Bagels in Deerfield, New York Bagel & Bialy in Skokie, and Jersey Boy Bagels (baked by TBI member David Lapidus). The field was rounded out by Bro Bagel, Great American Bagel, Kaufman’s Bagel & Deli, and NYC Bagel & Deli.

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Almost 1,000 bags were assembled and sent to the people seeking asylum in Texas. Kol HaKavod to Marie Warshawer, Joan Hakimi, the Social Action Council, and our TBI community.

A PROUD MONTH FOR PRIDE

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IN THE TEMPLE FAMILY

MazoT TOv TO:

Michael and Susie Lorge on the birth of their newborn 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; Emer Jeremias, son of Alexis and Rabbeinu Large.

Wendy Gann on her engagement to Scott Katzenelson.

On the marriage of Kaitlin Fine and Max Berman, son of Mush Berman, nephew of Scott Berman and Lisa and Don Drukker and cousin of Alyssa and Jordan Berman-Cutter.

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY:

The following Temple members are recovering from recent illness: Lori Fishman, Ernest Heimann, June Levin, Rabbi Hillel Gamaron, Rabbi Larry Kravitz, and Arnie Lev. We wish them a speedy recovery.

CONDOLENCES:

We note with sorrow the passing of Ursula Buckyman, mother of our Temple member Emily Good. May her memory be for a blessing.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of SANDRA BLUM.

SUSAN ZOLINE.

May her memory be for a blessing.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Beth Israel announces with profound sorrow the passing of SHERRY BERGER.

Lorny Hoffman.

May his memory be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO – B’Nai MITZVAH!

Temple Beth Israel wishes mazal tov to Aden Dembro on becoming Bar Mitzvah and being called to the Torah on January 18, 2020. Aden is a 7th grader at Lincoln Jr High School in Skokie, IL. Aden is a member of the Concert band at his school and hopes to join the Jazz band playing the saxophone. Aden enjoyed playing soccer on the junior high junior varsity team this year. He also enjoys playing basketball, dodgeball and participating in the occasional neighborhood nerd war. He is a video game fanatic and aspires to be a video game designer or YouTuber when he gets older. Aiden is also in Boy Scouts and is working to earn his rank.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As this TBI bulletin combines the months of December and January, I would like to share with you some of the opportunities that bring members together to pray, to learn, to have fun and to connect or reconnect with one another. I sincerely encourage you to be aware of the many programs and activities that our congregation offers during the next few months and beyond. This article will touch on just a few.

For more information, please review your Torah at Temple Beth Israel.

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A great time was had by everyone at this amazing event. Thank you to all the brave singers AND the cheerleaders who attended. A special thank you to our Angels and Community Sponsors:

Barbara and Bob Agdorn • Carol and Erwin Barrington
Sara and Billy Belkov • Berman/Drucker Family
Myles Berman • Marianna Tax and Harvey Choldin
Janis and Mark Fine • Cindy and Steve Franklin
Jennifer and Neal Gussis
Wendy Kabaker and Warren Arnold
Judy and Bob Kemp • June and Joel Levin
Kathy Kirn and David Levinson
Gladys and Lory Merritt • Rebecca and Greg Reuhs
Lori and Rabbi Jim Sagarin • Barbara and David Slivnick

TBI DOES HAVE TALENT!

BERGER SCHATZ
BYLINE BANK
SUPERDAG
ILLINOIS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK
ERISA
SKETCHBOOK BREWING CO.
SHERMAN DODGE
POOCHIES
DENGEOS
POOCHIE’S
PIEGUO’S
CHICKEN INN
NOTHING BUNDT CAKE
GRAZIANO’S
JET’S PIZZA
PORTILLO’S
SKOKIE GRILL & BAKERY
PRAMOD SHAH
LITTLE CAESARS
LIBERTAD
VILLAGE MARKET
KAUFMAN’S
PANERA

TBI does have talent! We would like to personally thank the TBI members, Sponsors and Angels without whom Karaoke night would not have been the rousing success it was. We are immensely moved by your generosity and participation. Todah Rabah!

Sheila Rosenfeld and Joanne Merritt, Co-VP’s of Fundraising

Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**

**Friday Evening, December 6**

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat
December Birthday Shabbat

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, December 7 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, December 13

7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, December 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, December 20

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, December 21 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, December 27

6:00 P.M. – Shabbat Chanukah Dinner
7:30 P.M. – Chanukah Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, December 28 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Mitzit”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, January 3

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**

January Birthday Shabbat

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, January 4 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, January 10

6:00 P.M. – PJ Library Shalom Dinner
7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services with Kolenu

Sharing the learnings of our TBI LGBTQ Leadership Committee

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, January 11 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Yayatz”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, January 17

5:30 P.M. – Likrat Shabbat
6:05 P.M. – Kabbalat Shabbat

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, January 18 at 10:30 A.M.
Bar Mitzvah of Arden Dembo, son of Jessica and Stephen Dembo
Torah Portion “Shemot”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, January 24

7:30 P.M. – Erev Shabbat Services

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, January 25 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Va’era”

**SHABBAT**

Friday Evening, January 31

6:30 P.M. – Shabbat in the Park … in Mendelsohn Hall

Dessert is sponsored by TBI Brotherhood in honor of TBI’s Birthday

**SHABBAT**

Saturday Morning, February 1 at 10:30 A.M.
Torah Portion “Bo”

We are living through a particularly difficult time in our country’s history. As I write these words, the live, televised hearings for the Presidential impeachment investigation by the U.S. House of Representatives have just gotten underway. Even the initiation of a process that could lead to the removal from office of a duly elected President marks a period of uncertainty and stress in our government and in our country. Whether you are a supporter of or a detractor of the President, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican or an independent, whether you believe that you already know what the outcome of these investigations ought to be… the entire process is unsettling. One could argue that the process itself is expressive of the strength and health of our democratic process — that provides orderly procedures of checks and balances to intervene when necessary. On the other hand, one could argue that the tone of these processes, and the commentary about them in the press, bespeaks the extent to which our political system has moved away from a focus on responsible governance and bi-partisan work for the good of the country and its citizens and has fallen into partisan bickering wherein each side claims to have at heart the best interest of the country when in fact they seem most interested in their own best interest and that of their party.

I am not enough of a constitutional expert, nor am I sufficiently well-versed in all of the details, to render a judgement as to whether the President should be removed from office because of what he did. I do know that the office of the Presidency has been severely diminished by the conduct of this President. Many of the President’s supporters’ admirers his regular and persistent name calling and mocking of others, but I think that such belittling behavior actually belittles the speaker more than the target. The President’s apparent penchant for provocation further lessens the stature of the office. Furthermore, it now seems clear that the President’s style of demeaning rhetoric has had the effect of emboldening people to commit actual acts of violence, hatred, racism and anti-Semitism. We, therefore, need to be especially vigilant to protect the safety, freedom and civil rights of every citizen.

I believe that we will weather this storm, and I hope that our country will end up stronger for it. A good leader ought to model the highest standards of ethical behavior and ought not only to be above reproach but even above suspicion. And I hope that the next President will be able to repair the damage done to the office of the Presidency by being a model of virtue and ethical conduct and ethical speech. Whatever the outcome of this process, we, the voters, need to learn that we ought to make all our choices for elected leaders based on the ethical character of the candidates, as well as the platforms that they espouse. As good citizens we ought to consider not only our personal and limited interest but the larger good of the country and all its inhabitants.

We would like to personally thank the TBI members, Sponsors and Angels without whom Karaoke night would not have been the rousing success it was. We are immensely moved by your generosity and participation. Todah Rabah!

Sheila Rosenfeld and Joanne Merritt, Co-VP’s of Fundraising

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